

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF A FEDERAL COURT SETTLEMENT TO THE MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced before this House a bill I hope will finally bring an end to a decades-long legal struggle and also provide much-needed financial assistance to one of the most impoverished areas of my Congressional District and, indeed, the entire state of Wisconsin.

Specifically, the bill I've introduced authorizes the U.S. government to finally make good on a \$32 million court settlement with the Menominee Indian Tribe in my district. The history of this settlement can be traced back to 1954, when the federal government terminated the tribe's federal trust status and the Bureau of Indian Affairs grossly mismanaged many of the tribe's assets.

In 1967, the tribe filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging this termination and seeking damages. After decades of litigation, in 1993 Congress passed a congressional reference directing the U.S. Claims Court to determine what damages, if any, were owed to the tribe.

In August of last year, following three decades of lengthy court trials and appeals, the tribe finally settled its claim against the federal government for \$32 million.

As the members of this House are aware, Congress must authorize the payment of this court settlement before any U.S. funds can be released. The court has done its job and the tribe has waited long enough. Now it is time for Congress to do its job and agree to this settlement.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to briefly spell out four key reasons why this proposal is worthy of support:

First, I believe it is our responsibility to make good on public commitments that have been made by representatives of our government in federal court proceedings. In this case, both sides negotiated this settlement in good faith, and it was approved by the court. Now it is our duty to finalize the court actions in this matter and award the settlement as agreed to.

Second, I believe this legal battle has gone on long enough, and the taxpayers should be relieved of the ongoing cost burden of this litigation. The first lawsuit dealing with this matter was filed in 1967—more than 31 years ago. After numerous trials and appeals over the last three decades, we have finally reached the light at the end of the tunnel. It is time for Congress to close the book on this matter once and for all and approve the release of these funds.

Third, the Menominee Indian Tribe needs and deserves this settlement. The Menominee

are one of the most economically troubled Indian nations in America. This is due in part to the Menominee Termination Act and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' mismanagement of Menominee tribal resources from 1961 to 1973.

Finally, this settlement will provide a boost to the local economies of northeastern Wisconsin—a part of my state in need of help due to the recent farm crisis and other economic factors. This settlement will provide at least a small amount of relief to communities throughout this area.

One final note. Today, Senator KOHL has introduced nearly identical legislation in the Senate. I am pleased to be working with him and I applaud his years of hard work in trying to improve the economic situation on the Menominee Reservation.

I would also like to thank Menominee Chairman Apesanahkwat for his willingness to work with me to ensure these funds, if approved, won't be used to take any land off the tax rolls. These dollars will be used to improve education, health care and economic opportunities for the tribe.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in an effort to being this matter to a speedy and successful vote on the floor of this House. For the sake of our country's credibility, for people of northeastern Wisconsin, and for the Menominee Nation, now is the time for this matter to be closed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' OVERTIME PAY LIMITATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1999

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues, Representatives DAVIS and MORELLA, I am pleased to introduce the Federal Employees' Overtime Pay Limitation Amendments Act of 1999.

The overtime cap for federal managers and supervisors has not changed for thirty years. Under current law, their overtime pay is limited to that given to a General Schedule level 10 step 1 employee. As the result, managers and supervisors, the majority of whom rank above that level, earn less on overtime than they do for work performed during the regular work week.

When this issue was raised at a civil service reform hearing last year, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) testified that the cap was unfair and warranted looking into. My response was, "When are you going to look into it." Like the rest of us, federal managers and supervisors only have their kids and families for a certain amount of time. They deserve to be fairly compensated so that they can adequately provide for their loved ones. They want to send their kids to college, they want to give them violin lessons, they

want to move into a new house, and if we wait 10 to 15 years, then they have missed out on a whole lot of life.

Representatives DAVIS and MORELLA, and I kept the pressure on OPM until it drafted overtime legislation to address this issue. It is this legislation that I am pleased to introduce today. The legislation would change existing law so that no federal employee would receive less than his or her hourly rate of pay for overtime work.

Please join me by cosponsoring this legislation for federal managers and supervisors and their families.

SAVE THE SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS—COSPONSOR H.J. RES. 53, THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT THAT PROTECTS THE TRUST FUND

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.J. Res. 53, the Balanced Budget Amendment that protects the Social Security Trust Fund.

Many years ago, the Congress made a promise. We promised to take a portion of every American's paycheck and keep it in a special trust fund. From that trust fund, the government would send a check to every American over the age of 65 so that no American would have to worry about growing old without someone to care for them. We called that promise Social Security.

We should keep our promise. Most of us now realize Congress has used the trust fund as a slush fund to finance other programs. Taking Social Security "off-budget" is meaningless. Congress did it in 1983, 1985, and 1990, and then later quietly ignored the "off-budget" rules. An ordinary law can't restrain future Congresses. An ordinary law can be overturned whenever "convenient."

There is only one way to make certain future Congresses devote that money to Social Security—to take it away from them so that they can't spend it on anything else. We must pass an amendment to the Constitution which would guarantee that all Congresses, present and future, will protect Social Security.

The only protection is to require a balanced budget that does not use the Social Security surplus. To do that, we must add to the proposed Balanced Budget Amendment the requirement that a surplus in Social Security cannot be counted as revenue.

We can still consider other reforms to Social Security, but first things first. Let's finally make a bond that we cannot break, and use the Social Security dollars only for Social Security.

It's the only right and honorable thing to do. To cosponsor this version of the Balanced Budget Amendment that protects the Social Security Trust Fund, call Dr. Bill Duncan on

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Istook's staff at 5-2132, or Charlie DeWitt on Mr. Campbell's staff at 5-2631.

HONORING IDUS "BABE" CONNER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, a good friend of mine, Idus "Babe" Conner, was honored for his service to the citizens of Lenoir City and Loudon County, Tennessee.

For the last 21 years, Babe Conner has been an active member of the Lenoir City Council. Babe is, no doubt, one of the most respected leaders in Loudon County and indeed throughout East Tennessee.

Before Mr. Conner was elected to the City Council, he served as a Loudon County Commissioner for 20 years. He even spent time as a Justice of the Peace, marrying many couples without charging a fee for his services.

Mr. Speaker, above all of this, Babe Conner is a family man. In 1946, he married Juanita Jennings and enjoyed 51 years of marriage until her death in 1997. That marriage produced a beautiful family. Babe and Juanita have one son and one daughter and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Babe Conner is also a God-fearing man who has served in many leadership positions in the First Presbyterian Church since its formation on October 13, 1957. He has even served as an Elder longer than any other church member. Mr. Conner is truly an outstanding role model for our children today.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join with the citizens of Loudon County and Lenoir City in congratulating Idus "Babe" Conner for his service and devotion to the citizens of East Tennessee. I am proud to call him a friend, and I wish him well in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Idus "Babe" Conner for his service to the citizens of East Tennessee and the rest of our thankful Nation. I have included a copy of a Lenoir City Resolution honoring Babe Conner that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow members and other readers of the RECORD.

Whereas, the governing body of the City of Lenoir City has adopted a policy of recognizing and honoring outstanding individuals living in Lenoir City, Tennessee; and

Whereas, Idus "Babe" Conner will celebrate his 80th birthday on April 1999, being born in the year of our Lord 1919; and

Whereas, Idus "Babe" Conner was married in 1946 to Juanita Jennings and was devoted husband to her for 51 years until she went to be with our Lord in 1997; and

Whereas, Idus "Babe" is the proud father of one son, Gary, and one daughter, Susan, and the grandfather of two grandsons, Richard and Cory, and two granddaughters, Angela, and Hannah, whom he loves dearly; and

Whereas, Idus "Babe" was born upstairs in a house on Kingston Street and has lived in Lenoir City all of his life. He was educated in the school of Lenoir City, where he participated in all sports activities. Upon graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Air Force, where he served four and a half years in Ground Forces; and

Whereas, Idus "Babe" Connor became a Justice of the Peace in 1960. He married between 75 and 100 couples during his tenure without charging for the service. If a dona-

tion was given, he gave it back to the bride. He loves to tell humorous stories about the couples he encountered who were seeking his services to get married. In 1978 Conner was elected to the City Council, from which he will retire this month. He has been a strong supporter of our school system, both supporting the Lenoir City School system as well as sponsoring the motion to construct the present Loudon High School during his tenure as County Commissioner. We shall always be grateful for his sincere dedication and service to the citizens of Lenoir City; and

Whereas, Idus "Babe" Conner retired from Martin Marietta in 1983 after over 33 years of continuous service; and

Whereas, Idus "Babe" Conner has been a pillar in the First Presbyterian Church since its formation October 13, 1957. He was the church's first choir director and song leader and has served as Sunday school teacher and Deacon. He has served as Elder longer than any other church member.

Now, therefore, I Charles T. Eblen, Mayor of the City of Lenoir City, Tennessee, do hereby PROCLAIM that Idus "Babe" Conner be recognized and singularly honored April 19, 1999 on Idus "Babe" Conner Day in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

Be it further proclaimed that a copy of this proclamation, signed by the Mayor, attested by the City Recorder, and bearing the great seal of the City be presented to Idus "Babe" Conner.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN FUJIAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry on the occasion of its 7th Anniversary Annual Banquet.

The members of the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry have long been known for their commitment to community service and to enhancing the quality of life for all New York City residents.

This banquet is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us to celebrate and pay tribute to a group of individuals who have dedicated their lives to helping others.

The American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry is a not for profit corporation whose membership is entirely composed of business owners who have immigrated to the United States from the Fujian Province of China. The Association, which was established in 1992, enjoys a membership of approximately 1,000 business leaders throughout the city of New York.

The Association's membership, ever mindful of the rigors of immigration, have devoted their efforts to the integration of new immigrants from China into American society as productive citizens. The American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry fosters programs that are designed to introduce immigrants to the American way of life and our country's economic and political system so that they may become productive citizens. Members of the Association have also devoted themselves to the development of the trade and com-

merce between the state of New York and the provinces of Fujian, Shandong, Jiangsu, Guangdong, Hebei, Liaoning, and Anhui Sichuan China.

Under the dedicated leadership of its Chairman, William P. Chiu, the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry have embraced the belief that trade breeds mutual understanding and respect which in turn promotes peace between the United States and China.

The members of the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those with whom they come into contact. Through their dedicated efforts, they have each helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations to the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry on the occasion of its 7th Anniversary Annual Banquet.

STATEMENT ON NATIONAL TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the House Advisory Panel to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, I would like to recognize May as National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. According to new data recently released by the U.S. Department of Health and Social Services, both the teen birth rate and the teen pregnancy rate in the United States have shown another decline. And while this is good news, the United States still has the highest rates of teen pregnancy and births in the western industrialized world—53 births out of every 1,000 births is to a teenage girl. More than 4 out of 10 young women become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20—resulting in nearly 1 million births per year. While many government officials would take the fact that the numbers are dropping as good news, I think this is only a small step in the right direction.

We need to continue to work toward lowering these numbers. Representative LOWEY and I have introduced the Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Act of 1999, legislation to authorize Federal dollars to be used to conduct a study of effective teen pregnancy prevention programs. The study emphasizes determining the factors contributing to the effectiveness of the programs and methods for replicating successful programs in other locations. It also would call for the creation of a clearinghouse to collect, maintain and disseminate information on prevention programs which would develop an effective network of prevention programs.

Far too many of our children spend the hours following school unsupervised and engaging in delinquent or unproductive behavior. Studies tell us that unsupervised children are at a significantly higher risk of truancy, stress, receiving poor grades, substance abuse and risk taking behaviors, including engaging in sexual activity. That is why I have introduced my ACE Act—After School Children's Education Act—it is another initiative that will go

far in preventing teen pregnancy. This legislation aims to study how after school programs can be expanded and improved to keep our children safe and help them learn between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Helping our communities prevent teen pregnancy is an important mission. Unmarried teenagers who become pregnant face severe emotional, physical, and financial difficulties. The children born to unmarried teenagers will struggle to fulfill the promise given to all human life, and many of them simply will not succeed. Many of them will remain trapped in a cycle of poverty, and unfortunately may become part of our criminal justice system.

However, sometimes no matter what we do here in Washington and what parents do at home, kids have the most impact on each other. Young people can be and are positive influences on each other. Parents and other adults can encourage positive peer influence and mitigate negative peer influence. We must do all we can to encourage teens to take advantage of the potential positive influence of peers.

Our goal to reduce teen pregnancy is challenging and difficult. But if we work together, we can make a difference.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PLAN TO CHANGE CONFEDERATE PARK TO CANCER MEMORIAL DRAWS COMPLAINTS

MEMPHIS, TENN.—The Civil War battle that surrendered Memphis to Northern hands took place just below bluffs on the Mississippi River.

For 90 years, a 2½-acre city park atop the bluffs has served as a memorial to the Confederacy. But now, a squabble is brewing over a plan to rename the park in honor of cancer survivors.

The R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation of Kansas City, MO, which finances parks to honor cancer survivors and encourage cancer sufferers, has offered the city \$1 million to fund such a memorial, plus \$100,000 for maintenance.

John Malmo, Park Commission chairman, said the city needs the money to improve and maintain the park, which is in the right location for what the Bloch Foundation wants.

Civil War and Southern heritage buffs are less than pleased. "I don't think we're just going to take it lying down," said John T. Wilkinson III, a Memphis lawyer and member of the Tennessee Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The General Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, have announced a rally at the park on May 19.

The Park Commission has a meeting the following day but is not expected to make a final decision on the proposal until next month.

The park has been part of the Memphis parks system for 170 years. It originally was part of the Public Promenade, 36 acres along the riverfront dedicated in March 1829 as open space for public use.

It was named Confederate Park in 1907 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

The park sits close to where a Northern armada launched a spirited, but brief, battle on June 6, 1862 that ended with Memphis' surrender.

Ed Williams, Shelby County historian, said the park offered a good vantage point for citizens to watch the Battle of Memphis, and a Union contingent reportedly docked below the bluffs on the way to accept the city's surrender.

In the early 1900s, reunions of Confederate veterans were held on the site, Williams said.

The park includes several plaques honoring Civil War heroes and a statute of Confederate president Jefferson Davis. It also has memorials unrelated to the Confederacy, including a Ten Commandments tablet.

Still, Judith Johnson, executive director of Memphis Heritage Inc., said the park holds an important place in the city's past and changing it should be approached with care.

"I know a lot of people at the end of the 20th Century feel the Confederacy is not something we can hold up as a value we can embrace, but we can't erase our history," Johnson said.

AUTO-PARTS MAKER MAKING PROGRESS AS SPINOFF FROM GM NEARS

(By Brian S. Akre)

TROY, MICH.—Delphi Automotive Systems Corp., the auto-parts manufacturer with locations in Mississippi and soon to be independent from General Motors Corp., has no more money-losing plants, is getting cooperation from its unions to cut costs and is winning more non-GM business, its chairman said Monday.

As the world's largest parts-maker, Delphi also plans to be a major player in the industry's consolidation through an aggressive acquisition drive. J.T. Battenberg III told reporters before departing on a worldwide roadshow to raise his company's profile among investors.

Delphi was once a disparate collection of parts operations that, with parent GM, was near bankruptcy in the early 1990s. Though it lost \$93 million last year because of several one-time costs, Delphi earned \$284 million in the first quarter this year.

GM is cutting Delphi loose to focus on its core business: building cars and trucks. Delphi executives say they expect their business to grow as other automakers no longer have to fear working with a supplier owned by their biggest competitor.

There's evidence that's already happening, even though the spinoff won't be completed until May 28. In the first quarter, Delphi won \$4 billion in new contracts with GM and a surprising \$2 billion worth of non-GM contracts. Delphi stock price increased 18 percent in its first three months.

"The stock has performed well," said analyst Jonathan Lawrence of Bear, Stearns & Co. "They're certainly winning business, and that's picked up since their announcement of the spinoff."

Delphi, based in Troy, Mich., and Battenberg will face their first big test come summer when they will work out details of a new contract with the company's largest union, the United Auto Workers. Talks already are under way with some UAW locals and Battenberg said there has been progress.

UAW it Delphi with two strikes last summer that shut down GM's North American assembly plants and cost Delphi \$450 million. Both companies are trying to repair their long-contentious relationship with the union.

Battenberg declined to comment in detail on that relationship but said he was in "per-

sonal touch" with UAW leaders. Though company insiders say UAW president Stephen P. Yokich has been cooperative, publicly he has criticized the spinoff and urged GM to retain 51 percent of the company.

The Delphi-UAW talks will coincide with the union's triennial contract negotiations with GM, Ford Motor Co. and the Chrysler unit of DaimlerChrysler AG. The UAW is expected to demand that Delphi's hourly workers get virtually the same deal as GM's hourly workers.

Delphi no longer has any plants that are unprofitable, in some cases because its unions agreed to relax restrictive work rules, Battenberg said. In Kokomo, Ind., for example, the UAW agreed to work rule changes to allow the electronics plant to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Battenberg said Delphi plans to focus on acquiring companies that can supply future technology, especially in the area of high-tech electronics as computers and satellite telecommunications become more integrated into the design of car and truck interiors.

"I look at Delphi becoming an electronics company that makes products for vehicles, which is a lot more attractive than a traditional auto-parts company," Lawrence said.

Though Delphi has been trimming its work force through attrition, the company may end up adding workers if it meets its goals to increase new business, Battenberg said.

Later this month, Delphi will debut a \$1 million TV-and-print advertising campaign to coincide with the Indianapolis 500 auto race. The campaign and 20-city roadshow are intended to make Delphi a brand known outside the auto industry.

BILOXI NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH HISTORIC HOUSE

(By Tom Wilemon)

BILOXI, MS.—The home of Glenn and June Swetman is like a time capsule with a paradox.

Inside the home, uranium glassware glows magically from display cases. Underneath the home, the stark cement walls of a fallout shelter stand dark and dank.

The Swetmans were living the American dream during the early 1960s, but they knew that a nuclear nightmare could destroy everything.

Coping with the Cold War is only one chapter in the history of this house, which is a virtual treasure chest of fascinating objects.

But its new owner and caretaker, the city of Biloxi, does not yet know what to do with it. Biloxi assumed control of the house in January after the death of June Swetman last year.

June Swetman and her husband envisioned their home becoming a city museum or a residence for the mayor when they arranged in 1982 to donate it to the city. Either use is unlikely.

Setting up an official residence for the mayor is not a priority for Mayor A.J. Holloway or the City Council. Nor are city officials planning to open another museum.

The Georgian Revival home sits on a quiet street near the beach, has no public parking and is in an area zoned for residential use.

"Originally, the house was slated to be a historic museum dedicated to telling the story of a day in the life of a country banker," said Lolly Barnes, historical administrator for Biloxi.

"That was the original purpose Mr. Glenn Swetman had in mind. Whether or not that will be the purpose I don't know," Barnes said.

Glenn Swetman was the owner of The Peoples Bank and one of the Coast's most respected civic leaders. He had a penchant for collecting things.

The collections include valuable antiques, whimsical walking canes, uranium glassware and Japanese woodblock prints. Virtually every piece has an interesting story.

The prints once belonged to the architect Frank Lloyd Wright. A Victorian dining table came from the estate of 19th-century social reformer Dorothea Dix.

The house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, has been offered as a headquarters for some Coast performing arts organizations.

The Gulf Coast Opera is in process of setting up an office in one of the second-story bedrooms. But that does not mean the public will get to go inside.

"We don't anticipate a lot of foot traffic," said David Daniels, president of Gulf Coast Opera "What we mainly need is a phone line and computer space. It's mainly a place where people can call and make reservations for performances. That space is ideal for that."

Two of Swetmans children, Chevis Swetman and Nancy Breeland, said they were pleased that the opera will use the house because their parents avidly supported the performing arts.

Their parents established a trust fund that now totals \$85,000 to pay for maintenance and repairs at the house. An assessment of the house by the city's risk manager found no major structural damages or problems.

The property has a value of \$183,000. "We are looking at some preventive maintenance and some minor repairs," said Vincent Creel, public affairs manager for Biloxi. "The city is still assessing its long-term options for use of the property. The antique and art collections inside the house belong to the Peoples Heritage Trust, a foundation the Swetmans set up at Peoples Bank to preserve and protect the Coast's historical properties."

"As far as I know, the uranium glass collection is one of the more extensive in the country," said Chevis Swetman "Years ago, people didn't know what it was that made it glow. The opalescent glass, which glows under black lights, was created by adding uranium to a glass mixture with a high arsenic content."

Outside the home, Chevis Swetman pointed to the fallout shelter and noted that his father was a survivalist as well as a collector of fine things.

"The fallout shelter has four escape hatches in case some of them got blocked by rubble," he said. "They were all built at right angles because radiation travels in a straight line. We were prepared for the big one."

JUCO CAMPUSES HOLD JOINT GRADUATION

BILOXI, MS.—Sean and Stephanie Harris of Lucedale graduated from separate campuses of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, but took part in the same graduation ceremony.

For the first time since 1968, the Jackson County, Jefferson Davis and Perkinson campuses of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College united Monday night for a joint graduation ceremony.

A few months ago, the Harris couple worried about having to miss each other's graduation.

"I was very relieved to find out it was on the same day in the same place," Stephanie Harris, 25, said Monday night as she and her husband prepared for the processional at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum.

"We both wanted to go to each other's graduation," said 28-year-old Sean, who completed the paramedic program at the Jefferson Davis campus.

Stephanie Harris finished at the Jackson County campus with an associate of arts degree.

With increasing enrollments and record-high graduating classes, the three campuses of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College have grown too large to hold separate ceremonies in their gyms. More than 800 students took part in the Monday night ceremony.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK—1999

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Hospital Week during the week of May 9–15. This year's theme, "People Care. Miracles Happen," recognizes the health care workers, volunteers and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the Universal Infant Hearing Screening program of Spectrum Health's Downtown Campus in my hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The program won the American Hospital Association's prestigious Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence, which highlights special contributions of hospital volunteers.

The Universal Infant Hearing Screen program identifies potential hearing loss in all babies at or transferred to Spectrum Health's Downtown Campus. Early identification and intervention can prevent a hearing problem from being a handicap.

Volunteers undergo extensive training to prepare for this program. After volunteers administer the screening, audiologists review the test results to identify infants with potential problems. Those with abnormal results are referred for re-screening or diagnostic testing. Without the work of volunteers, it would be impossible to provide this vital service to the thousands of babies at Spectrum Health every year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the staff at Spectrum Health for their dedication and their award-winning program.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE LAWRENCE BANKOWSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding craftsman and labor leader in my District. Lawrence Bankowski, retired President of the American Flint Glass Workers Union (AFGWU), left this world on April 10, 1999 at the age of 68 after a long and valiant struggle with cancer.

Born in Mt. Clemens, MI, Larry grew up in North Toledo, graduating from Woodward High School and attending the University of Toledo. He often worked up to three jobs at a time, and joined the AFGWU in 1955 when he went to work as a moldmaker for Ohio Permanent Mold Company, where he remained until 1973 when he was elected international union representative. He rose through the ranks in 25 years of dedicated service to the union, retir-

ing as its International President in 1999. In representing the 121 year old AFGWU and its 18,000 members, Larry traveled to other countries, met with President Clinton, and served on the U.S. Department of Labor's Advisory Committee on Trade Negotiations. He always championed the cause of working people, constantly urging that U.S. companies' production remain in the United States and that trade laws benefit workers everywhere.

A very wise leader, Larry was diligent in his life long efforts and embodied the men and women he represented in the AFGWU. Throughout his years of service in the international union, he kept his focus on the needs of the rank and file, never losing sight that the men and women making up the AFGWU and their futures were what mattered most. He understood that union working men and women can unite to fight for their economic, social and political best interests.

Larry Bankowski was also a dedicated family man, relishing time spent with his wife, children, and grandchildren. In the years I have been privileged to know him, his wife Betty, or one of his children or grandchildren always accompanied him. There is no way to adequately express our heartfelt condolences to Betty, their children Carol, Kathy, and Karen, his sisters and brother and grandchildren. May you find comfort in knowing Larry is at peace, and lives in the light he left shining in each of you, and of us. His kindness, dedication, and gentlemanly demeanor make our community and world finer and more humane.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND COMMENDATION FOR PRESIDENT DEBOW FREED OF OHIO NORTH- ERN UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to spotlight a very special individual who has unselfishly given of his time, energy, and spirit to others in the Fourth Congressional District of Ohio. The month of August will pose many a challenge to Ohio Northern University since it will be losing its President to a well deserved retirement. His shoes will be very difficult to fill.

President Freed has been with ONU in Ada, Ohio since 1979. Before serving as Ohio Northern's President, Dr. Freed was the president of Monmouth College. Dr. Freed has served in all aspects of university life. He has been a teacher, administrator, dean, and president. He knows inside and out how to guide a university to academic and financial success.

Besides being a top notch administrator, Dr. Freed is a great academian. It's not every college which can boast that is has a Doctor of Nuclear Science and Engineering as president. Over the years I have witnessed how DeBow Freed cares very deeply for his university family. Students and faculty have perhaps been a bit spoiled with how good a president he has been. Though he will no longer work as president for ONU, he will never be far from it in mind and body. Moreover, the Freed Center of Fine Arts stands as a lasting tribute to his leadership abilities and the commitment he and his wife have made to the university.

I wish Dr. Freed and his wife, Catherine, all the best as they approach this new adventure of retirement together.

TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS OF
FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED
STATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of a proud organization. Today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Tenth District in the State of Michigan will celebrate the VFW's 100th Anniversary. The members will gather at the Charles Schoor Post 796 in Port Huron Michigan in honor of this historic occasion.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars dates back to the time of the Spanish-American War of the late 1800's. The first local organizations were founded by veterans in 1899 to secure rights and benefits for their service. Three separate groups were founded in Ohio, Colorado, and Pennsylvania, and later banded together to become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Today, the organization has over two million members, and includes veterans from World War I through Bosnia. Each new generation of members adds to the strength and focus of the VFW. However, the VFW has remained committed to recognizing military service and remembering those who gave their lives for freedom.

Under the motto, "Honor the dead by helping the living," the VFW has provided assistance to countless veterans across the United States. The VFW has more than 15,000 trained service officers who assist veterans and their families with government services, discharge upgrades, and other much-deserved benefits awarded to Veterans. Through national programs, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is able to provide members with information, scholarship, safety programs, and youth involvement activities.

On the 100th Anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, we celebrate the people who have made this organization successful. I would like to extend my congratulations on this historic occasion and best wishes for the future.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 833) to amend title II of the United States Code, and for further purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, while I believe that H.R. 833 is an important step towards ending the abuse and restoring responsibility to our nation's bankruptcy system, I believe that the effectiveness of this legislation

could be improved by adjusting the homestead exemption for bankruptcy filers to more adequately reflect the current costs of housing in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, in my home State of New York, the homestead exemption for individuals is just \$10,000 while couples are limited to only a \$20,000 exemption. Clearly this amount is woefully inadequate when compared to the current high costs of housing faced by the residents of New York.

Mr. Chairman, while I think that H.R. 833 sets a reasonable cap on homestead exemptions at \$250,000, I believe it is imperative that the homestead exemption for individuals and couples in New York be raised to sufficiently reflect the prevailing costs of housing in New York so that while consumers are working to meet their financial obligations and get back on their feet, they are not burdened with the prospect of losing their homes.

HONORING THE SILAS AND ELLA
LEWIS FAMILY REUNION

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Family of Silas and Ella Lewis as they plan to celebrate their first Family Reunion from July 2nd through July 4th, 1999 in Monticello, Mississippi.

Silas Lewis was one of the first African-Americans to own land and a horse-drawn buggy in the early 1900's. Descendants of Silas and Ella Lewis continue to live in the area and have become productive and prominent members of the community.

All Americans come together as a family to honor our national heritage on the Fourth of July. It is a fitting tribute to Silas and Ella Lewis that so many members of their family have made the commitment to come together during the Fourth of July holiday to celebrate their personal heritage. Silas and Ella Lewis are role models for modern Americans. The principles of hard work and determination they instilled in their children and grandchildren continue to represent the strong family values we need to foster as we prepare to begin a new millennium.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor the memory of Silas and Ella Lewis. I am proud of their family for coming together to celebrate their noble heritage. And I am most proud that I am able to rise before this Congress—the People's House—to share their story and praise Silas and Ella Lewis.

MARKING THE 300TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE TOWN OF PLAIN-
FIELD, CONNECTICUT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Plainfield, Connecticut. I join the residents of the community in celebrating this special occasion.

Within only a few decades of landing at Plymouth Rock, citizens of the Massachusetts Bay Colony were migrating into the "hollowing wilderness" of eastern Connecticut and settling along the banks of the Quinebaug River. Today, it is hard to believe that Connecticut was once considered "frontier" territory, but the families who began to develop towns east of the Connecticut River in the 1640s and 1650s were pioneers well before the first Conestoga wagon set off along the Oregon trail. The Winthrop and Fitch families began to establish settlements on the Quinebaug in the mid-1650s. The Winthrop settlement on the eastern side of the River would ultimately become the Town of Plainfield when its inhabitants were granted the "powers and privileges of a township" on May 11, 1699. The name Plainfield—bestowed by Governor Fitz-John Winthrop in 1700—can be directly traced to the topography of the area which is dominated by fertile meadows and fields.

The development of Plainfield over the past three centuries is a microcosm of the history of New England and the nation as a whole. Plainfield was an agrarian community throughout the 1700s dotted by small family farms growing corn, rye, barley and other crops in the fertile lands surrounding the Quinebaug. Men from Plainfield joined colonists from across Connecticut and New England to fight for our independence during the Revolutionary War. The Community hosted 6,000 troops under the command of French General Rochambeau as they traveled from Newport, Rhode Island to Yorktown, Virginia to participate in the decisive campaign of the Revolution.

Beginning in the first decade of the nineteenth century, Plainfield began a fundamental transition which would forever reshape its character, population, economy and culture. In many respects, the history of this community, and many others throughout New England, is defined by the development and expansion of the textile industry. And Plainfield was an ideal place for this industry to grow. The rivers which run through Plainfield, including the Moosup and Quinebaug, offered an ideal source of power for early mills. The Hartford-Providence Turnpike, the major transportation route between the state capitals, ran through town. Moreover, Plainfield benefitted from its close proximity to Rhode Island—the birthplace of the factory-based textile industry in the United States. The early mills received important financial support from Rhode Island investors and utilized technology developed by Samuel Slater.

The first textile mill was established in the community by the Plainfield Union Manufacturing Company in 1809 along the Moosup River. Within a decade, the company employed 74 people who produced shirts, sheets, bedding and other products. In the years following 1809, which author Christopher Bickford describes as "those frenetic first years of growth of the textile industry," several other mills were established along the Moosup and Quinebaug Rivers, including one owned by the Moosup Manufacturing Company. By 1820, the character of Plainfield had changed significantly as the textile industry became more and more widespread.

Over the coming decades, the textile industry would grow exponentially, remaking the

community into an industrial center in Connecticut. The mills built during this period were multiple stories and incorporated the latest technological innovations. By 1840, Plainfield was home to seven cotton and five woolen mills. The cotton mills produced 3.2 million yards of cloth and employed 512 people. The woolen factories produced 110,500 yards of cloth using nearly 300 employees. In 1840, the railroad began to provide service to Plainfield. This linked Plainfield to communities throughout New England and provided another boost to the growing textile sector. Using the railroad, producers could distribute their products to new markets more cheaply than ever before. Moreover, the coming of the railroad helped to encourage the development of larger and larger industrial facilities. The original Wauregan Mill, built in 1853, was 250 feet long by 50 feet wide making it the largest mill in Plainfield by far. By 1860, this mill was the largest in Windham County with 425 employees who produced 3.9 million yards of various cloth products.

The history of Plainfield continued to be defined in large part by the textile industry through the 1920s. New mills continued to be constructed, including facilities built by the Plainfield Woolen Company and another by the Central Worsted Company. The last major mill was built by Harold Lawton between 1906 and 1912. This was the largest facility ever constructed during more than a century dominated by continuous growth in the textile industry. The original structure was three stories, measured more than 250 feet long and had a 150-foot smokestack rising above its steam generators. Over the next six years, the original building was expanded twice and employment grew to 1,200. These developments in the early part of this century prompted the Providence Sunday Journal to write in 1912 that "Plainfield has been transformed from a quiet farming community into one of the busiest mill villages hereabouts." The transformation of Plainfield from a frontier outpost into an industrial center was complete.

The residents of Plainfield have triumphed over a series of challenges throughout the twentieth century. They survived the Great Depression which dramatically reduced employment in the Town's mills. Young men from the Town served their nation bravely in two world wars, Korea, Vietnam and other military actions around the world. The community developed new industries in the 1950s and 1960s during a period in which economic forces beyond its control shifted textile manufacturing to the southern United States and overseas. During this period, new manufacturers, including Kaman Corporation and C&M Wire, moved to old mill buildings and contributed to economic diversification and revitalization.

Mr. Speaker, a yet to be published book documenting Plainfield's long history is appropriately titled: "Plainfield Transformed: Three Centuries of Life in a Connecticut Town." Over the past three hundred years, the community has been transformed from a frontier outpost to a center of textile manufacturing to the town we see today. As the residents celebrate their past, they look to the future with optimism and a strong sense of community. I know that our grandchildren and their children will mark Plainfield's 400th Anniversary with the pride we feel today.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH E. DEVVOY

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to Joseph E. DeVoy on the occasion of the Forest Hills Community and Civic Association's Testimonial Luncheon in recognition of his thirty-five years of service to the Association and to the Forest Hills community.

Joe DeVoy, a strong believer in community and coalition building, was selected as Community Board Six's first Chairman and continues to serve as a member of the Board. He has served as the President of the Central Queens Allied Council, a forerunner of Civic Alliances in Queens.

Joe DeVoy's strong interest and focus on community service led him to be one of the founding members of the Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps where he served as an EMT for six years. Through his dedicated efforts, the North Forest Park Branch of the Queens Borough Library was completed and opened to the public providing neighborhood residents with a haven to read and learn about their community and the world. In addition, Joe DeVoy was the driving force behind the designation and development of Remsen Park as a historic landmark and protected area and currently serves as the President of the Remsen Park Coalition.

Joe DeVoy routinely works with neighborhood community groups and local elected officials to ensure the quality of life of his friends and neighbors in Forest Hills. Under Joe DeVoy's leadership, the Forest Hills Community and Civic Association has developed a broad array of services for people of all ages. Today, the members of the Forest Hills Community and Civic Association still enjoy the benefits of Joe's guidance and leadership in finding ways to resolve problems which affect the Forest Hills community.

Joe DeVoy has long been known as an innovator and beacon of good will to all those with whom he has come into contact. Through his dedicated efforts, he has helped improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of his many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations to Joseph E. DeVoy on the occasion of the Forest Hills Community and Civic Association's Testimonial Luncheon in honor of his thirty-five years of service to the Association and to the Forest Hills community.

WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the young scholars of Woodbridge High School from Bridgeville who represented my home state of Delaware in the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. They were part of a group of 1200 students from across the country who were in Wash-

ington, D.C. from May first to the third to compete in the national finals of this program. These young scholars worked diligently and persistently to reach the national finals and through this program have gained a deeper knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The names of the students are: Derek Bowman, Mike Clendaniel, Lisa Culver, Joy Diogo, Laura Divver, Shawanda Garrison, Krsitine Haring, Cassie Hartzell, Brooke Hearn, Lina Hertzog, Heather Holmes, Jared Judy, Michele Keough, Matt McCoy, Josh Miller, Blake Moore, Andrew Morozowich, Jessica Parkinson, Willie Savage, Crystal Short and Lefisha Williamson.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to their teacher, Barbara Hudson, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young students about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day final competition they participated in consisted of hearings modeled after those in the United States Congress. The students made oral presentations before a panel of adult judges and testified as constitutional experts before a "congressional committee." A panel of adult judges representing various regions of the country and a variety of appropriate professional fields served on the congressional committees. These judges followed up the testimonies with a series of questions designed to test the students' depth of understanding and their ability to apply constitutional knowledge to given situations.

The We the People program is administered by the Center for Civic Education, and has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. This program has promoted civic competence and responsibility among young students as well as awareness for contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The team from Woodbridge High School conducted research in preparation for the national competition here in Washington, D.C. I congratulate them for their fine work that enabled them to come so far in this competition and to visit our nation's capital.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' BENEFITS EQUITY ACT OF 1999

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton, I am pleased to introduce the "Federal Employees' Benefits Equity Act of 1999." This proposal eliminates certain inequities under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), with respect to computation of benefits for certain employees. The legislation also corrects an inequity created by the court decision. *Wassenaar v. OPM*, that affects benefits for survivors of law

enforcement officers and fire fighters who die as federal employees.

Under current CSRS and FERS law, certain employees (i.e. air traffic controllers, fire fighters, law enforcement officers, and nuclear materials couriers) qualify for an immediate enhanced annuity if separated from service after reaching age 50 and completing 20 years of service. The enhanced annuity, however, requires that they make retirement contributions that are 0.5 percent higher than employees generally.

The legislation addresses an inequity that occurs when an employee in one of these occupations is forced to retire because of a disability, or is involuntarily separated (not for cause), before reaching age 50, the employee only receives a regular annuity (and not the enhanced annuity), even if he or she has had 20 years of service in the occupation.

The bill fixes this problem by providing the enhanced annuity to employees, who after 20 years of qualifying service, regardless of age, are forced to retire due to involuntary separation, or for disability. The measure also provides for a refund of the additional 0.5 percent retirement contribution, with interest, when employees in these occupations retire or die before attaining eligibility for the enhanced annuity.

By supporting this legislation, you support federal firefighters, law enforcement officers, and others, who work in these very demanding occupations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CHILD CARE CENTER ACT OF 1999

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill designed to ensure the continued ability of the Library of Congress to provide quality child care services to those who so ably serve that fine institution and other elements of the Legislative Branch, as well as to other federal government employees and private sector employees when space is available.

Similar to the general law applying to other federal child care facilities, this legislation would amend the Library of Congress Child Care Center's authorizing language to specify that the Center must have at least 50 percent of its enrollees from families of federal employees. The legislation also establishes priorities for enrollment in the Center: first priority would go to children (and grandchildren and dependents) of Library employees; second priority would go to children of other employees of the Legislative Branch; and third priority would go to children of employees of other federal agencies. Children of non-federal employees would then be admitted as space allows, subject to the 50 percent limit.

The 1991 law creating the Library's Child Care Center is ambiguous on the point of permitting the Center to admit children whose parents are employed outside of the Legislative Branch. The Library's General Counsel and the independent Library of Congress Child Care Association Board believe the clear authority provided in the bill I introduce today is

needed to continue the ability of the Library to provide affordable child care to Capitol Hill staff.

The proportion of Library and other Legislative Branch children enrolled in the Library's Child Care Center has steadily increased since the Center opened its doors in 1993. With nearly 50 percent of the Library's workforce becoming eligible for retirement by the year 2003, Library employees will have an even greater need for quality, convenient child care. Meanwhile, in order to remain self-sustaining, the Library's Center needs the same flexibility provided to other federal centers to admit a small proportion of children from families not employed by the federal government.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX AND SHIRLEY FAHN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Alex and Shirley Fahn, of Sacramento, California.

Mr. Speaker, the Sacramento community, and especially the community of the Keneset Israel Torah Center understand why Alex and Shirley deserve our recognition and our heartfelt thanks.

These extraordinary individuals display the inspiration of the Talmud and serve as examples to those near them. Alex and Shirley show us by their faith and commitment that this kind of courage is possible and they surround us with their strength.

Perhaps the most remarkable example of Alex and Shirley's commitment to build in our community is their belief in the Keneset Israel Torah Center. Mr. Speaker, Alex and Shirley's work to take a dream and make it a reality touched so many people that they will be honored with a gala dinner in Sacramento later this week. I know I speak for those back home when I say that one evening of recognition could not possibly repay Alex and Shirley for their constant sacrifice.

The Talmud say, "Every blade of grass has an angel that bends over it and whispers, 'Grow, Grow.'" Alex and Shirley have been the angels of the Keneset Israel Torah Center—dedicating their time and enthusiasm to every aspect of creating the Center. Since the initial planning stages, they never hesitated to offer their home to host meetings and events. They served on the Center's Board of Directors and began a tradition of generosity by donating to the building fund and dedicating classrooms. This amazing couple unconsciously grew into a leadership position in the development and life of Keneset Israel.

We are grateful for Alex and Shirley's involvement as congregational and community leaders in a variety of organizations and capacities. Their leadership experience and personal integrity provide an example for the rest of us trying to navigate a true course.

Over the course of their service in Sacramento, Alex has served as president of both the Jewish Federation and Mosaic Law Congregation. Shirley has been active in the philanthropic sorority Theta Delta Xi.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the constant contributions from Alex and Shirley Fahn and

their commitment to truly give all they can. It is with great pleasure that I honor them today and offer my most heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for the future.

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY "SKEETER" SHIELDS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of East Tennessee are losing a true statesman. After 32 years of successful service, Stanley "Skeeter" Shields is retiring from his post as Mayor of the City of Maryville, Tennessee. Few people in the entire Nation have served one community for so long and with such dedication.

A lifelong member of the Blount County community, Skeeter Shields has spent his career making life better for the citizens of Maryville and indeed all of Blount County. After graduating from Maryville High School, he attended Maryville College and went on to graduate from the University of Tennessee.

Mayor Shields has a beautiful family. He and his wife, Mary Frances, have two wonderful children and three grandchildren. Those who know Skeeter know that he is a true family man.

Skeeter Shields has been a devout member of the First United Methodist Church for many years. In fact, he has taught Sunday school for 44 years and is the past Chairman of the Church Board.

Mayor Shields is a model public servant. He was a member of the Maryville School board for 12 years, helping to improve the lives of young people through the education process. He was elected to the Maryville City Council in 1955, and in 1967 he was elected Mayor. He has served in that position ever since.

During his tenure, Mayor Shields demonstrated the true potential of a public servant. He was instrumental in getting several large industries to establish facilities in the Maryville area. Additionally, he helped develop a regional wastewater treatment plant, three public parks, two fire station facilities, as well as many other things that have greatly benefitted the citizens of Maryville.

Throughout the last 32 years, Mayor Shields has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for members of the Maryville and Blount County communities. I know that I join with everyone in East Tennessee in thanking Mayor Stanley "Skeeter" Shields for his outstanding service to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I have included a copy of a Resolution adopted by the Tennessee General Assembly honoring Mayor Shields that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow Members and other readers of the RECORD.

A RESOLUTION TO HONOR STANLEY SHIELDS, MAYOR OF MARYVILLE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

Whereas, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should recognize those citizens who in their years of work have performed with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented devotion; and

Whereas, Stanley Shields is one such outstanding person who has served with alacrity and acuity as the Mayor of Maryville, Tennessee for 32 outstanding years; and

Whereas, Mayor Shields exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; and

Whereas, he is a graduate of Maryville High School, attended Maryville College and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1938; and

Whereas, Mayor Shields was a member of the Maryville School Board from 1952 to 1964, serving astutely as chairman for four years; and

Whereas, his career in city government began in 1955 when he was elected as a member of the Maryville City Council. He was elected Mayor in 1967 and has served with distinction in that important position ever since; and

Whereas, during Mayor Shields' tenure, the city of Maryville has seen numerous improvements and great progress, including the development of a regional wastewater treatment plant; three public parks; two fire station facilities; a new library facility; an industrial park; Broadway Towers, a high rise elderly housing complex; and Maryville's Foothills Mall; and

Whereas, Mayor Shields' has also been instrumental in securing the location of several large industries in Maryville, including Denso Manufacturing and Ruby Tuesday Inc; and

Whereas, his illustrious service to his fellow citizens was appropriately recognized when he was selected Tennessee Mayor of the Year by the Tennessee Municipal League in 1979; and

Whereas, he has continued to serve adroitly the community in addition to his duties as mayor, as evidenced by his service on the Maryville Planning Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, East Development District Board, Governor's Board, Maryville Rotary Club and Metropolitan Planning Organization for Knox and Blount counties; and

Whereas, throughout all his endeavors, Mayor Shields has shown his unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for the citizenry of Maryville and Blount County; and

Whereas, he is most appreciative of the love and support he received from his wife, Mary Frances, their children, Steve and Karen, and grandchildren, Stephanie, Steve and Whitney; and

Whereas, Mayor Shields has evinced his devout faith as a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he has taught Sunday school for 44 years and is the past chairman of the church board; and

Whereas, the good people of Maryville are most grateful for Mayor Shield's devoted service and the sterling legacy he has built from Shields Stadium to the Greenbelt; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by Senate of the One Hundred First General Assembly of the State of Tennessee (the House of Representatives concurring), That we extend to Mayor Stanley Shields of Maryville our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and continued success in his future endeavors. Be it further

Resolved, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary Celebration.

The members of the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation have long been known for their commitment to community service and to enhancing the quality of life for all New York City residents.

This event is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us to celebrate and pay tribute to a group of individuals who have dedicated their lives to helping their friends and neighbors. This year's honorees truly represent the best of what our community has to offer.

As a member of the Board of Directors for the American Cancer Society, Queens Division, Douglas A. Gerowski helped raise more than \$50,000 in a five-year period through the organization's "Stepping Out Against Cancer" fund-raising campaigns. Douglas has served as a Chairman of the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporations Board of Directors and coined the slogan "Taking Care of BiDness" as the Woodhaven Business Improvement District's first 3rd Vice President. He currently serves as the President of the Merillon Athletic Association of Hew Hyde Park and is actively involved in coaching his children's baseball, basketball and hockey teams.

Born a few months after Pearl Harbor, Jeffrey Lewis grew up in Woodhaven and attended local public schools. At that time, Jeffrey's family already owned and operated a small store, Lewis' of Woodhaven, on Jamaica Avenue and 85th Street. While in high school, Jeffrey helped his family celebrate the opening of Lewis' of Woodhaven's second store on Jamaica Avenue between 90th and 91st Streets. Following his graduation from the University of Denver in 1963, Jeffrey got married and started working full time at Lewis' of Woodhaven. Within a few short years, Jeffrey and his loving wife Marlin were blessed with two daughters. Even though he moved his family to Westchester, Jeffrey's roots and time were all in Woodhaven. In 1989, Jeffrey became involved with the Woodhaven Business Improvement District Feasibility Committee and became the first President of the Woodhaven Business Improvement District in 1993 upon its creation. While most of Jeffrey Lewis' time is still spent running the family business, he makes sure to enjoy the time he has with each of his children and grandchildren.

Today's honorees have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those with whom they come into contact. Through their dedicated efforts, they have each helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations on their being honored by the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation.

a bill to free the National Labor Relations Board from being overburdened because bracket creep has forced them to accept cases from very small employers in this nation. Here is a copy of my "Dear Colleague" and a report from the Labor Policy Association that outlines the problem and why it is important to small businesses in America to correct this problem.

FREE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD (NLRB). HELP REDUCE UNNECESSARY BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESS

DEAR COLLEAGUE: This Congress, Mr. Istook is introducing legislation to help the NLRB manage their huge caseload. Each year the NLRB requests additional funding to help them administer and manage their caseload. This legislative reform simply makes adjustments for inflation in the financial jurisdictional thresholds of the NLRB, most of which were set in 1959. The NLRB can still adjudicate special cases below these thresholds, just as they can do today. It is crucial that we provide the NLRB with this freedom. We urge you to cosponsor this bill. Two former NLRB Chairs support this change.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is the government agency designed to settle labor disputes between unions and management. In 1959, Congress passed a law to give NLRB jurisdiction over businesses based on gross receipts. Once a business passes that threshold of gross receipts, it is subject to intervention by the NLRB. Businesses below the threshold are subject to actions brought in state courts, instead of the NLRB.

Without an adjustment for inflation, businesses and the NLRB have been caught in "bracket creep," as inflation has increased since 1959, the NLRB has acquired jurisdiction over much smaller businesses than was ever intended, escalating the expense and workload for the NLRB as well as for business. These now include very small businesses, for whom the cost of such intervention is unbearable. Up to 20% of the NLRB's workload now is these very small businesses. For example, NLRB has jurisdiction over non-retail businesses with gross receipts over \$50,000, an inflation adjustment would raise that threshold to \$275,773. NLRB has jurisdiction over retail businesses and restaurants doing more than \$500,000 worth of business, but adjusting for inflation since 1959 would raise this to \$2.7 million. Congress never intended to subject smaller businesses to such a heavy regulatory hammer.

The NLRB is powerless to change its jurisdiction without an act of Congress. So this legislation will do exactly that. By indexing the jurisdiction to the rate of inflation, the NLRB could again focus upon the larger businesses for whom the law was originally written. Small businesses have been severely burdened by dealing with the far-off NLRB instead of their local state courts (Examples on Reverse).

This bill's simple adjustment both frees NLRB to deal with significant cases truly affecting interstate commerce, and also removes the problems very small businesses have with NLRB oversight (See Example on the Reverse). If you have any questions, please call Mr. Istook's office and speak with Dr. Bill Duncan at (202) 225-2132.

Tom DeLay, Bill Young, John Boehner, John Porter, Jim Talent, Henry Bonilla, Ernest Istook, Dan Miller, Jay Dickey, Roger Wicker, Anne Northup, Randy "Duke" Cunningham, John Hostettler, Chris Cannon.

EXAMPLES OF SMALL BUSINESS NLRB CASES

Larry Burns, of Houston, Texas, (8 employees), had 2 charges filed against his business

TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER
WOODHAVEN DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS
BOARD

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1620,

by the NLRB. One was thrown out, the other settled for \$160 (1 days pay). Larry Burns spent \$11,000 in attorneys fees and wasted time fighting the NLRB when these problems could have been solved cheaper and easier in state courts. Also, Mr. Burns, under state law, could have recovered ½ of his attorney's fees under loser pays (which helps eliminate frivolous charges).

Randall Borman, of Evansville, Indiana (4 employees). Three charges were filed with the NLRB. All were dismissed. He could have recovered all of his legal fees under Indiana state law. Instead he lost \$7,500 in attorney's fees and lost revenue and had to lay off workers to cover this expense.

EXAMPLES OF DELAYS IN PROCESSING NLRB CASES

Julian Burns, of Charlotte, North Carolina, (23 employees). His case should be heard by the NLRB. However, the NLRB's workload is so overloaded with cases from very small businesses that it took 2½ years to hear his case. Rather than getting his day in court, he settled for \$10,000, after paying \$35,000 in attorney's fees, and \$250,000 for losses in manpower and reduced workforce, for a total cost of \$295,000.

ACHIEVING NLRB BUDGET SAVINGS BY UPDATING SMALL BUSINESS THRESHOLDS

The National Labor Relations Board¹ (NLRB or Board) exercises exclusive jurisdiction over all labor disputes that are considered to be of significant national interest. The Board, itself, has set the standards for determining which labor disputes reach this threshold. Unfortunately, most of these standards are based on 1959 dollar figures that have not been adjusted for inflation over time. The result is that the Board's method for asserting jurisdiction has become outdated and should be changed to reflect present economic realities. Such a change could result in substantial savings to the U.S. Government.

The NLRB's jurisdiction, in both representation and unfair labor practice cases, extends to all enterprises that "affect" interstate commerce.² This expansive statutory grant of authority has been held by the Supreme Court to mean that the Board's jurisdiction extends to "the fullest . . . breadth

constitutionally permissible under the commerce clause."³

Traditionally, however, the Board has never exercised its full authority. Since its establishment, the Board has considered only cases that, in its opinion, "substantially affect" interstate commerce. In 1959, Congress endorsed this practice in the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act. The act specifically allowed the Board to "decline to assert jurisdiction over any labor dispute . . . where . . . the effect of such labor dispute on commerce is not sufficiently substantial to warrant the exercise of its jurisdiction."⁴ Congress did not leave the Board total discretion, however. It instructed that the Board "shall not decline to assert jurisdiction over any labor dispute over which it would assert jurisdiction under the standards prevailing upon August 1, 1959."⁵

Thus, although Congress recognized that the board needed to exercise discretion in interpreting the term "affecting commerce," it clearly did not want the Board to establish lower thresholds than were already in place. In 1959, however, the Board's prevailing jurisdictional thresholds were based on raw dollar amounts. The difficulty with this jurisdictional approach is that it fails to take inflation into account.

The problem with not adjusting jurisdictional thresholds is clearly illustrated in the following example. In 1959, the Board exercised jurisdiction over non-retail businesses that sold or purchased goods in interstate commerce totaling \$50,000 or more annually. In other words, in 1959, \$50,000 of interstate business "substantially affected commerce." Today, the Board continues to exercise jurisdiction using the \$50,000 threshold, but the effect on commerce of \$50,000 today is not nearly what it was in 1959. The value of \$50,000 today is equivalent to \$9,065 in 1959. Thus, just as \$9,065 did not warrant the Board's jurisdiction in 1959, \$50,000 should not warrant the Board's jurisdiction today.

Since 1959, the Board has established separate thresholds for particular types of businesses that did not fall into the 1959 categories. Although these thresholds are more recent, they nonetheless suffer from the same major flaw—they fail to consider inflation.

Figure 1, below, lists the Board's current jurisdictional thresholds for various business sectors along with the year in which those thresholds were established. These sums are then converted into their present value—making it clear that the Board's present procedure for asserting jurisdiction is both unrealistic and outdated. Consequently, 29 U.S.C. § 164(c)(1) should be amended to reflect the present value of these jurisdictional thresholds.

A second flaw in basing jurisdiction solely on the volume of the employer's business is that such a method fails to consider the size of the bargaining units involved. As a result, the Board spends scarce federal resources pursuing relatively small benefits. Figure 2 clearly illustrates this position. In 1994, the Board expended nearly 20% of its representation effort on bargaining units of 9 persons or less. Yet, this 20% effort reached less than 2% of the total number of employees involved in representation elections that year (3,393 out of a total of 188,899). In other words, the Board could have reduced its effort by 20% while maintaining 98% effectiveness had it declined to assert jurisdiction over these small units.

What is even more surprising is that the NLRB conducts elections in units as small as two workers. The Board refuses to release statistics on this point to the public, but such statistics would be available to the Appropriations Committee.

Leaving jurisdiction over these small units to the states would be the most efficient use of federal resources and could result in significant savings to the Federal Government.

FOOTNOTES

¹This analysis was prepared by the staff of the Labor Policy Association.

²29 U.S.C. § 160.

³NLRB v. Reliance Fuel Oil Corp., 371 U.S. 224 (1963).

⁴29 U.S.C. § 164(c)(1). Parties involved in labor disputes that did not meet the Board's jurisdictional requirements were not left without recourse by Congress. The act specifically provided that agencies or state courts could assert jurisdiction over these claims. 29 U.S.C. § 164(c)(2). Of course, state courts would have to be empowered by state law to do so.

⁵29 U.S.C. § 164(c)(1).

FIGURE 1.—PRESENT VALUE OF NLRB JURISDICTIONAL THRESHOLDS BY BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Business activity	Jurisdictional threshold	Present value
Non-retail enterprises; enterprises that combined retail and wholesale; and architectural firms	¹ \$50,000 (1959)	\$275,773
Retail enterprises; restaurants; automobile dealers; taxicab companies; country clubs; and service establishments	² \$500,000 (1959)	2,757,732
Instrumentalities, links, and channels of interstate commerce	³ \$50,000 (1959)	275,773
Public utilities; transit companies	⁴ \$250,000 (1959)	1,378,870
Printing; publishing; radio; television; telephone; and telegraph companies	⁵ \$200,000 (1959)	1,103,093
Office buildings; shopping centers; and parking lots	⁶ \$100,000 (1959)	551,546
Day care centers	⁷ \$250,000 (1976)	705,185
Health care facilities:		
nursing homes	100,000	298,327
hospitals	⁸ \$250,000 (1975)	745,818
Hotels and motels	⁹ \$500,000 (1971)	1,981,481
Law firms	¹⁰ \$250,000 (1977)	662,129

¹Figure represents annual interstate sales or purchase. Siemons Mailing Serv., 122 NLRB 81 (1958); Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons, Inc., 192 NLRB 1049 (1965).

²Figure represents annual volume of business including sales and taxes. Red and White Airway Cab Co., 123 NLRB 83 (1959); Carolina Supplies and Cement Co., 122 NLRB 723 (1958); Bickford's, Inc., 110 NLRB 1904 (1954); Claffery Beauty Shoppes, 110 NLRB 620 (1954); Wilson Oldsmobile, 110 NLRB 534 (1954); Walnut Hills Country Club, 145 NLRB 81 (1963).

³Figure represents annual income derived from furnishing interstate passenger or freight transportation. HPO Serv., Inc., 202 NLRB 394 (1958).

⁴Figure represents total annual volume of business. Public utilities are also subject to the \$50,000 non-retail threshold. Charleston Transit Co., 123 NLRB 1296 (1959); Sioux Valley Empire Elec. Ass'n, 122 NLRB 92 (1958).

⁵Figure represents total annual volume of business. Belleville Employing Printers, 122 NLRB 92 (1958); Raritan Valley Broadcasting Co., 122 NLRB 90 (1958).

⁶Figure represents total annual income. Mistletoe Operating Co., 122 NLRB 1534 (1958).

⁷Figure represents gross annual revenues. Salt & Pepper Nursery School, 222 NLRB 1295.

⁸Figure represents gross annual revenues. East Oakland Health Alliance, Inc., 218 NLRB 1270 (1975).

⁹Figure represents total annual volume of business. Penn-Keystone Realty Corp., 191 NLRB 800 (1971).

¹⁰Figure represents gross annual revenues. Foley, Hoag, & Elliot, 229 NLRB 456 (1977).

RECOGNIZING WASHINGTON
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Hospital Week and applaud the efforts of our nation's hospitals. In particular, I want to call attention to the Washington Regional Medical Center, and its efforts to serve the community.

Washington Regional—located in Fayetteville, Arkansas—has recently been awarded the 1999 NOVA award by the American Hospital Association. This award recognizes hospitals for their initiatives for and interaction with the local community. This year, Washington Regional is a recipient of the NOVA award for its commitment to the children of Washington County.

Many community ills occur due to circumstances that are beyond an individual's control. Unfortunately, many of these problems result in chronic disease, disability and often death. Washington Regional is working to reverse that trend through the Kids for Health program. Through this program, the medical center partners with the Washington County school system to teach more than 8,000 children about self-esteem, general health, nutrition, fitness, hygiene, and safety.

The Kids for Health program is so successful that it received a five-year grant from the Harvey and Beatrice Jones Charitable Foundation. This critical program is proving that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and proud to recognize the Washington Regional Medical Center for its achievements. It is a stellar example of a hospital that makes a difference in its community.

PROVIDING WIC BENEFITS TO
OVERSEAS MILITARY PERSONNEL

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will put an end to unfair treatment of military personnel stationed overseas and their families. These dedicated personnel who are performing invaluable service to the nation, along with their families, are currently ineligible for supplemental nutrition services which we provide for other citizens.

The Department of Defense estimates that 46,658 women, infants, and children are currently denied benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). That means that military personnel and their families, to whom our nation owes substantial gratitude, are being treated as second-class citizens. They are denied basic services which would be available to them had they not volunteered to serve their country.

As a nation, we are better than that. We are already asking men and women who serve in the military to make significant sacrifices. Those sacrifices should not include the health and well being of their families.

Since its inception, we have seen very clear evidence that participation in WIC has reduced the number of low birthweight babies and birth defects caused by poor nutrition during pregnancy. In addition, the nutritional supplements received by infants and young children help prevent health problems related to poor nutrition. This small investment in nutritional assistance for individual participants saves our country a great deal in health care costs and costs related to special education services.

The WIC program also includes an education component which is key to the program's success. These nutrition and education benefits should be available to all U.S. citizens, regardless of where they are residing.

Present law authorizes the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program similar to WIC to provide special supplemental food benefits to military personnel overseas. However, current law relies heavily on the transfer of funds and commodities from the Secretary of Agriculture to operate this program. These funds have never been made available. Therefore, the legislation I am introducing today would call on the Secretary of Defense to use funds available for the Department of Defense to carry out this program. It would also require the Department of Agriculture to provide technical assistance to the Department of Defense to insure program quality.

Mr. Speaker, I believe very strongly that our military personnel overseas should have access to the same nutritional support as families residing in the United States. My legislation would enable the Department of Defense to provide these services. I would encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, which insures that our overseas military personnel and their families reap the same benefits from program participation.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN L. VINGER
OF DODGEVILLE, WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War I veteran Martin L. Vinger, of Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Mr. Vinger has been recognized by the French government in solemn tribute to his World War I service. He valiantly served on French soil to aid in the liberation of France, and for his service he has been awarded The National Order of the Legion of Honor, the highest military honor that can be bestowed upon non-French soldiers.

With an extraordinary sense of dedication and commitment, Mr. Vinger enlisted in the U.S. Army on April 11, 1918 at the age of sixteen. He then departed for France in July of that year. He returned to the United States in February, 1919 and was discharged the following month.

At the time of his award, Mr. Vinger stated from his own wartime experiences that we Americans today must remember to keep our democracy alive, "because if we lose it, it will be a long time getting it back." One can only imagine what a different world we might be living in today had not Mr. Vinger and other brave young men and women served on the many fronts of the "war to end all wars." It is

with sincere gratitude and the utmost respect that I rise today to ask that the Congress of the United States join with me in recognizing the selfless service of Mr. Martin L. Vinger.

A TRIBUTE TO DON KINGSTON

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Don Kingston, who is retiring this year from Eldorado High School in Eldorado, Illinois. Donald J. Kingston was born on October 28, 1931, one of eight children. His father passed away when he was just four years old leaving his mother with eight children during the Depression. Don felt strongly that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal Programs were instrumental in pulling his family through the hard times. He also believes that the sports programs in his local high school were the only reason he completed high school, a very revealing fact when you look at how dedicated he has been to EHS sports over the last forty years.

Back in the fall of 1956, while in his last year of law school, EHS head football coach Coach Adams, asked Don to be assistant coach for the EHS football team. Instead of going on to practice law, Don accepted the assistant coaching job. A year later when Coach Adams retired, Don became the head coach of the football team. Don Kingston has given the last forty-two years of his life to being both an outstanding educator and coach at Eldorado High School. Mr. Kingston has taught many subjects at Eldorado High School, including physical education, driver's education, English and geography. Mr. Kingston has also coached the football, basketball and track teams. The best teams he has ever coached, according to Don, were the 1968 Eagles Football Team and the 1976 Eagles Basketball Team, of which his son Kevin was a member.

Mr. Speaker, what is most special about my opportunity now to congratulate Don and his wife Wanda, is the fact that I have known them all of my life and truly appreciate their commitment to public service. They raised two wonderful children; Kevin and Valerie, who have served as role models to the community, and I know that if Kevin were still with us today he would be proud to see his father reach this stage in his life. Don has been my teacher, my fellow elected official, my supporter, professional colleague, but most importantly, my friend! Don, we wish you God's speed and congratulations on a fabulous career in shaping the lives of our young people.

FREMONT'S IRVINGTON HIGH
SCHOOL NAMED 1999 DISTINGUISHED
SCHOOL BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fremont's Irvington High School. The

California Department of Education has named Irvington as a 1999 Distinguished School—the most prestigious award they bestow.

Consideration for this award does not come lightly. The California Department of Education uses a rigorous aggressive application model, which requires schools to be exemplary in their field. Irvington is a magnet school for the visual and performing arts, and currently 1,800 students are in attendance.

Irvington High School should also be very proud of its cutting edge requirement that students complete 40 hours of service learning, or community service, in order to graduate. Programs such as these are what make Irvington stand out from the rest.

I commend the faculty and students of Irvington High School for their dedication to excellence, and I congratulate them.

IN MEMORY OF JONATHAN
PATRICK BIGONY II

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in happy memory of the late Jonathan Patrick Bigony II, on the third anniversary of his birth, which occurred on June 8, 1996. Blue-eyed with black, curly hair and a radiant smile, Jonathan was known as “J.P.” to his friends, yet to his four devoted uncles in the DiGregory Family, he was affectionately nicknamed “Tater.” He loved to laugh at the kitchen table with his Uncle Billy, to watch his Uncle Jimmy working in the garden, to play with his Uncle Johnny, and to watch his Uncle Dominic prepare detailed meals as a chef. Among J.P.’s first words were the names of his uncles.

As high spirited and good-natured as he was handsome, J.P. was a delight to those who met him. Whenever carrying him on their shoulders, his friends and family were prepared for J.P. to flip over backwards in laughter. He was the loving son of Jonathan and Marysanta Bigony of Bowie, Maryland, and was the younger brother of J.R. Bigony. J.R. and J.P. dearly loved each other, and the two boys enjoyed laughing together, day and night. Jonathan’s loving Godparents were his friend, Patty Lowe, and his Uncle Dominic.

Nothing fascinated J.P. more than when he looked up on a roof one beautiful morning in May, 1997, and saw his uncles doing carpentry together with his friend, Raymond Lowe. From the high rafters, his beloved Uncle Johnny waved to him and his much-loved Uncle Jimmy called out an enthusiastic, “Tater!” And Jonathan, only 11 months old, fearlessly tried to climb the ladder to be with them. He knew what it meant to be loved.

Jonathan enjoyed many of his adventures in the company of his totally dedicated grandmother, Mrs. Dorothy McNamara DiGregory, whom he adored and who cleverly fashioned a safety-seat for him on her golf cart, so that he could accompany her during her strenuous work hours around the expansive family property. J.P. loved the outdoors, and he enjoyed helping her to do carpentry, to feed the horses and dog, to work in the garden, to landscape the lawns, and to trim branches along the creek.

Jonathan also enjoyed playing games with his loving grandmother, Mrs. Gertrude Bigony, of York, Pennsylvania, and with his cousins, Leigha and Danielle DiGregory. One of his earliest sentences was, “Hi, Leigha! How ya doing?”

In honor of the anniversary of Jonathan’s birthday, it is a privilege to pay tribute to a wonderful child who brought so much joy. Today, the memories endure of a smiling J.P., enjoying cookies with his grandmother, snuggling on his devoted mother’s shoulder, and beaming down happily from his Uncle Johnny’s strong arms.

EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES ACCESS ASSURANCE ACT OF 1999

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues, Representative Ed TOWNS and Representative JO ANN EMERSON, in introducing H.R. 1777, the Emergency Ambulance Services Assurance Act of 1999. This legislation will ensure that health care plans reimburse for emergency ambulance services when individuals had every reason to believe that they were experiencing an extremely serious condition requiring immediate emergency care.

Some may ask why we are introducing this legislation when all of the major managed care reform bills that have been introduced in Congress already include emergency care provisions. But the fact is, these bills cover only what happens when the patient enters the emergency room. None of the bills ensures coverage for emergency ambulance services. It is our hope to use this separate bill to highlight this omission and to build support for including emergency ambulance services coverage in more comprehensive managed care reform proposals that may be moving through the legislative process.

This legislation would ensure that individuals suffering what they had every reason to assume to be a potentially life-threatening condition requiring immediate medical attention or their family or caretakers don’t have to phone their insurance plan before they call for an ambulance and don’t have to worry about paying for the ambulance services should the condition later prove to be not as serious as the patient thought.

TAX SIMPLIFICATION AND
BURDEN REDUCTION ACT

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, Congress can take great pride in changes we have made in tax law in recent years for small businesses, families and middle income Americans. Unfortunately, we cannot claim to have reduced the complexity of the tax code. A simple Constitutional amendment ratified in 1913 runs to 32 words: “The Congress shall have

the power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.” The Revenue Act of 1913 which enacted the income tax was 15 pages long.

The copy of the Internal Revenue Code on the bookshelf in my office is printed on the tissue thin paper. It covers over 2300 pages. The regulations springing from the code fill many volumes. The court cases would fill a library.

Is it any wonder that 66 percent of respondents in a recent Associated Press poll said that the federal tax system is too complicated? The same poll showed that over half of those surveyed, 56 percent, pay someone else to complete their returns. When you consider that only 30 percent of taxpayers itemize, that is a good number of people who are paying someone else to fill out 1040s and 1040EZs. Something is wrong when so many taxpayers with relatively straightforward returns lack confidence in their ability to fill out a 1040 or a 1040EZ.

At the beginning of this year, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight heard from the Taxpayer Advocate in its first hearing of the 106th Congress. The Advocate presented some 39 legislative proposals for improving service or reducing the compliance burden. He told us that his recommendations came from a “groundswell of casework.”

Later this month, the Oversight Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the need to simplify the tax code and reduce the compliance burden. I look forward to hearing from Treasury and from several professional organizations, also from practitioners who work in the field every day trying to help working men and women comply with our tax laws.

In the meantime, I am in the process of drafting legislation (The Tax Simplification and Burden Reduction Act). It includes several of the Advocate’s recommendations, proposals developed by the Tax Section of the American Bar Association and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, also suggestions I have received from the people of New York’s 31st Congressional District and from people across the United States who have written to the Subcommittee on Oversight.

My bill would include the following provisions:

Eliminate nonrefundable credits as adjustments to regular taxable income in calculating alternative minimum taxable income. No one should have to pay the alternative minimum tax (AMT) simply because he or she claimed a child credit or HOPE scholarship credit.

Exempt taxpayers from the AMT if their modified adjusted gross income is below a middle-income threshold (\$85,000 for individuals, \$120,000 for married, filing jointly). The AMT was never intended to penalize middle-income taxpayers who aren’t using loopholes in the tax code.

Increase the AMT gross receipts exemption for small businesses from \$7,500,000 to \$10,000,000. By the same token, the AMT is an unnecessary and extraordinary burden for many small businesses.

Replace the current individual capital gains tax regime with a simple 50 percent deduction from gross income. The current form is 54 lines long and according to the Treasury Department takes an average of 6 hours and 41 minutes to complete. Many taxpayers have to

fill out this form simply because they earned a few dollars from a mutual fund. The 50 percent calculation would completely eliminate this burden.

Allow a deduction for all refinancing mortgage points for personal residences in the year paid. It is simply too confusing to require these relatively small amounts to be amortized over the life of a long-term mortgage.

Increase the exclusion for group-term life insurance purchased for employees from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Taking modest life insurance coverage into income is a needless inconvenience for many taxpayers.

Repeal the percent limitation on contributions to defined contribution retirement plans. The current law restriction is not only confusing, it limits the ability of lower income workers to save for retirement.

Simplify the safe harbor for payment of estimated income taxes. Under current law, the safe harbor changes from year to year. My bill would eliminate the fluctuation.

Allow expensing of off-the-shelf computer software by small businesses. Depreciating such small investments is hardly cost-effective considering the compliance burden for the taxpayer.

Allow expensing of personal property (e.g. carpeting, refrigerators, washers) purchased for use in connection with residential rentals. This would eliminate a common error and result in increased compliance.

Simplify Subchapter S rules. The Subchapter S regime has become a maze of complex requirements and a snare for even the most experienced taxpayers. A major overhaul is needed.

Increase the gross receipts threshold for the cash method of accounting from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000. We are forcing far too many small businesses to use the accrual method of accounting.

Extend the \$10,000,000 gross receipts threshold for the uniform capitalization (UNICAP) rules to all small business activity. Compliance with the UNICAP rules is particularly complex if not impossible for small businesses.

Reduce recordkeeping requirements. Under current law taxpayers are required to keep indefinitely all records that may become material. The bill would require taxpayers to keep only primary records after six years if there is no audit in progress.

Increase from \$10 to \$25 the threshold for dividend and interest payments that must be reported on form 1099. Requiring savings institutions and other payors to report such minimal amounts is an inefficient use of private sector resources.

Treat the postmark date as the filing date on all returns. Under current law, the postmark date is material only when the return is filed on time. Considering the postmark date as the filing date for all returns would eliminate confusion.

Mr. Speaker, several of my colleagues, including the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COYNE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), both of whom serve on the Oversight Subcommittee, have introduced simplification bills of their own. My immediate predecessor, the gentlelady from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), established a compelling hearing record when she chaired the Subcommittee. I applaud their efforts and look forward to working with them on this tremendous important challenge.

In the coming days, I will be approaching my colleagues to ask them to join me as original co-sponsors of the Tax Simplification and Burden Reduction Act.

HONORING VINCENT STANLEY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Vincent J. Stanley, Jr., who will be honored on May 18th with the Annual Rotary Award of the Rochester Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, Rotary International's motto, "Service Above Self," aptly applies to Vince Stanley.

In addition to his success in business as founder and President of V.J. Stanley, Inc., Vince Stanley's leadership and generosity has improved the quality of life of countless people in his community.

Through his work with the Rochester Rotary Club, he has made it possible for hundreds of school children to attend summer camp. As a former President of the Rochester Red Wings baseball team, Vince initiated special handicapped seating within the stadium and continues to provide thousands of underprivileged children with tickets to baseball and hockey games and PGA events.

Vince's generosity aided in the formation of Hope Hall, a school that serves children with special learning needs.

Through his involvement with the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), Vince continues to make a difference for small businesses in his community, and throughout our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House of Representatives join me in congratulating Vince Stanley, on the occasion of his being honored by the Rochester Rotary Club with its annual award, and for his continued generosity and dedication to community service.

CRISIS IN KOSOVO (ITEM NO. 3) REMARKS BY DAN PLESCH DIRECTOR, BRITISH AMERICAN SECURITY INFORMATION COUNCIL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 1999, I joined with Representative CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY and Representative MICHAEL E. CAPUANO to host the second in a series of Congressional Teach-In sessions on the Crisis in Kosovo. If a peaceful resolution to this conflict is to be found in the coming weeks, it is essential that we cultivate a consciousness of peace and actively search for creative solutions. We must construct a foundation for peace through negotiation, mediation, and diplomacy.

Part of the dynamic of peace is a willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue, to listen to one another openly and to share our views in a constructive manner. I hope that these Teach-In sessions will contribute to this

process by providing a forum for Members of Congress and the public to explore alternatives to the bombing and options for a peaceful resolution. We will hear from a variety of speakers on different sides of the Kosovo situation. I will be introducing into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD transcripts of their remarks and essays that shed light on the many dimensions of the crisis.

This presentation is by Dan Plesch, Director of the British American Security Information Council (BASIC). Mr. Plesch discusses a number of options for resolving the crisis, and emphasizes the importance of non-military solutions and looking ahead to the need for massive reconstruction aid for the Balkans. Following his presentation is a Washington Post column by Mr. Plesch and Julianne Smith describing their concept of "Civilian Intervention Units" to help avoid tense situations deteriorating into war. I commend these documents to my colleagues.

PRESENTATION BY DAN PLESCH TO CONGRESSIONAL TEACH-IN ON KOSOVO

My organization has been involved in advocating, lobbying, coaxing, and cajoling political leaders and the alliance itself for the best part of a decade now in how to avoid and prevent situations like the one we are in now. These horrors are tragically not the last in this part of the world and certainly we know that these issues are presented to us as immensely complicated problems. I will sketch out a rather simple description, which will lead from that into how NATO leaders were handling these issues at last week's summit.

If you can take leave of imagination with me, and think of the Balkans as some of our own troubled inner cities, and if you think of trying to manage law and order in Washington, DC, or somewhere else, the only tool available to you is the SWAT team of a private security force, which is about equivalent of the NATO military. Not under the town council, if you will, the United Nations, but a private security force that does not come when you call 911 unless you've got a credit card to go with it. In this case, neighborhoods would be burning and all over DC, without neighborhood programs, without community policing, without the whole infrastructure.

We have learned in our cities that relying on the SWAT teams and police cruisers is not the way forward. If you look at models in Boston or other places in this country we can see that it is the complex, much derided social work model that provides security. That helps to dispense with the SWAT team approach and permits other tools in the tool box. The political actions of our leaders in this country in particular speak to the current situation at hand.

What this country does, many others follow. My own country, the United Kingdom and other countries in Europe, has so far followed the U.S. in ensuring that when policy makers, politicians, parliamentarians wish to take action to prevent and manage conflict, virtually the only tool available to us is military force.

In Kosovo today we are using air power, which is largely ineffective. We are told that Serbian military forces are arriving in Kosovo in larger quantities than we are destroying, even with the best efforts of Allied aircraft. The other possibility on the table are ground forces, which are virtually unusable as a political tool. So we have limited our options in the first place to the NATO alliance, a private security organization involved in the international community and then limited our military force options. That

was the position we put ourselves in the Rambouillet talks. And the position that the administration led the Alliance and European security to with all deliberate speed. Kosovo, if you recall, was to be, as Richard Holbrook put it, the prototype within NATO, for military actions outside of NATO's borders without U.N. authority. There was great pride that Russian participation could be dispensed with, and nobody even mentioned the two words, United Nations, for almost six months in public.

Ground war as proposed is a fantasy akin to the air war—the fantasy being that we might be able to be involved without the war spreading. Proponents of a ground war need to answer the question of how we could contain the ground war, how they would limit Milosovic's options to broaden it. Those people who want to drive tanks through Hungary should explain how they would intend to do it without creating a similar situation we have here for the 300,000 Hungarians living in northern Serbia.

If, as in Bosnia, we decide to unleash the Croat army against the Serbs, which is one of the main options, and indeed an arms program for Croatia was one of the less publicized decisions of the summit. If we decide to allow the Croats do our fighting for us, then we risk massive, long-term escalation of the conflict. Privately NATO officials believe that either we take the opportunity over the next few weeks to negotiate our way out of this, and those options have been discussed here in the media and the congressmen who are to take part in some of these peace discussions in Vienna, or the race is on between a peace deal and a ground war driven by pride and machismo. That is why of course we still continue the air war. Nobody wants to fail. That same logic will lead us to start using a wider range of artillery in our actions in a week or so and from that into a ground war, which [I learned from] talking to officials at the margins of the NATO summit meetings. Despite the possible escalation, there has been a deafening silence from NATO about the fate of the remaining Kosovars in Kosovo right now.

Nothing has been said by the Alliance for one or two weeks now about the hundreds of thousands of displaced people. That will change. When that changes, on the propaganda front, I will regard it as a signal for a major escalation of the conflict, because it will be used to escalate the public mood to support an escalation of the conflict. The strategic shift in policy that could have been made at any time in the last eight years away from the SWAT team, heavily armed only approach to international security towards resourcing other aspects of security, is beginning to be supported more strongly from the Europeans.

At the summit there was a welcome endorsement by the United States of the European plan for long-term economic stabilization of the region. (Some of this analysis is on our web site (<http://www.basicint.org/>)). Very broadly we advocate a long overdue economic and security plan. Such a plan was used very successfully in Eastern Europe after the Cold War. States must put aside their longstanding political differences and take the necessary human rights, election law, and other legal measures between themselves. Then the European Union should put a lot of money into subsidizing the building of a modern infrastructure in the countries of the Balkans, including Yugoslavia, including Serbia. This proposal is very seriously put forward by the German government and others and has full European Union backing. And there is enlightened self-interest in this very clearly.

Now those plans of the Europeans got lukewarm support here. But as the legislation

that comes before you to support this war, I would urge you to look very seriously at supporting non-military strategies, which are beginning to come out of the Alliance and the Europeans.

I could spend my time talking more negatively about the summit, but let me outline the strategy and some views on the immediate future. I would just like to close with a number of elements that need close attention and support.

The first is that we should support anti-fascist dissidents, as we supported anticommunist dissidents during the Cold War. Secondly, we should indict Milosovic as a war criminal, and the United States must join the international criminal court. Thirdly, the moment the United States puts in \$10 million into support of all operations on regular basis of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, move the decimal point to \$100 million or \$1 billion. Believe me, the OSCE could use that money incredibly usefully in the region in a minute to professionalize the sort of functions that we saw in verifying in Kosovo. Very few people realized that the mission that drove around in orange jeeps was temporary help. The reason that monitoring in a permanent capacity in Europe and elsewhere was because policy makers and geostrategists dismiss it as social work that should not be funded. That was inexcusable in 1990 and a tragedy today.

Finally, to ensure that the ideas contained in the concept to open up a whole new range of arms control and reduction measures in Europe are fully fleshed out and the administration is made to bring detailed proposals to the table, we must make sure that the rhetoric of war is not simply used to rearm former communist militaries in countries from Eastern Europe to the Caucasus to the Chinese border and to train militaries underneath the rubric of arming them with the cause of democracy. Programs such as these are carried out with no congressional supervision under the provision that military training programs don't have to be authorized by the Congress. This strategy will bring about a series of problems akin to those we've already seen across the region.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 7, 1999]

MORE THAN BOMBS AND 'VERIFIERS'

(By Daniel Plesch and Julianne Smith)

The United States is once again considering sending troops abroad, this time as part of a NATO peacekeeping force that would attempt to bring order to Kosovo in the Balkans. The Clinton administration has been reluctant to commit to such an effort, but the recent massacre there has created an impetus for intervention. This crisis might have been averted altogether if either NATO or Europe's primary security organization had a professional "intervention force" that could be used to defuse such situations.

As things stand now, the United States and its allies have only two choices when ethnic massacres occur overseas. One is to issue warnings to the warring parties, which are often ignored. The second is to respond with some kind of military force. But that comes with its own problems, including casualties and an ever-expanding and never-ending mission. What we are suggesting is a third option of nonmilitary intervention.

We need to create a new type of unit to intervene before military action is necessary. The requirements for this new formation, which might be called "Civilian Intervention Units," would include both a permanent core of workers and the capability to draw on larger numbers as needed. Operations would vary from election monitoring to disaster relief to peacekeeping.

A permanent unit would be an alternative to the team of "verifiers" that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) created and sent to Kosovo in an effort to resolve tensions between warring Serbs and Albanian separatists. The verifiers are not part of any permanent unit and most of them have no prior experience in peacekeeping. Indeed, the "verifiers" label was invented for use in Kosovo. The ad hoc nature of the OSCE mission was itself a problem: In the weeks that it took for the participating governments to gather a group of retired military officers and diplomats to send to the region, the deal they were trying to preserve began to erode.

The OSCE "help wanted" advertisement for the verifiers is telling: It had such minimal requirements—essentially, a knowledge of English and computers and a driver's license—that it could be mistaken for an attempt to hire unskilled office help. But the 700 verifiers are now involved in complex, difficult work—mediating disputes, building democracy, investigating war crimes and preparing elections. These tasks should be carried out by a highly skilled unit with several thousand members to draw upon. The need is not just in Kosovo, but in other parts of the world, too.

A permanent unit of trained monitors is needed to observe elections, oversee the control and destruction of armaments, conduct forensic investigations of war crimes, mediate and arbitrate. These requirements are too frequent and too specialized to continue to rely on temporary missions—which once over, are essentially cast aside. The administration did not even debrief the monitors it sent to recent elections in Bosnia.

Tough security backup would be essential, but that could consist of a police force accustomed to interacting with civilians. Paramilitary police units with light armored vehicles—such as the German border guards and Italian carabinieri—exist in several European states and could serve as prototypes.

Coordination of humanitarian relief is also needed. Governments and nonprofits are comparatively well prepared to supply food, medicine, clothing and shelter, but its management is often poor and should be overseen by these new units.

Creating a permanent unit would not be easy. There is no precedent and the bureaucracies in Washington and Europe seem to lack imagination as they wrestle with the crises that dominate the modern age. The corporate cultures of Foggy Bottom, the Pentagon and Capitol Hill dismiss nonmilitary intervention as "social work." The United States has opposed proposals from Sweden and Argentina in the United Nations for a standby civil intervention unit. Those who follow the U.S. lead get the message. As a result, military spending is increasing, while the budget for nonmilitary intervention is relatively meager: The OSCE's entire budget is less than \$100 million, compared with NATO's \$400 billion for military spending. The OSCE cannot be blamed for recruiting "temps" when the United States and other nations have denied it the resources it needs.

With only military means available to tackle security issues, is no surprise that crises deteriorate until the military is needed. It should also be no surprise that NATO's "SWAT" team is of limited use in complex situations. In domestic law-and-order policy, the value of investing in cops in the beat, youth employment programs, mediation, counseling and gun control is understood. But international security policy is overwhelmingly military.

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright should both encourage the Europeans to develop this new force and ask Congress to support its creation. Nonmilitary tasks are not

NATO's job, but the alliance should favor any policy shift that would reduce the calls on its military might.

Europe, and the world, needs something more than SWAT teams and untrained verifiers.

Daniel Plesch is director of the British American Security Information Council an independent research organization. Julianne Smith is BASIC's senior analyst.

SOME QUALIFICATIONS

Here is the OSCE's job posting for the Kosovo Verification Mission. Words in bold are as they appeared in the ad, along with the phrase, "POSTS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED".

ESSENTIAL: Several years experience in the area of work; knowledge of written and spoken English; computer literacy (Microsoft applications); excellent physical condition with no chronic health problems that limit physical activity; possession of a valid driver's license and capability to drive standard transmission vehicles; ability to establish contact and develop confident relations with local population as well as the ability to work with government officials and institutions; flexibility and adaptability to difficult living conditions; willingness to be deployed in different Field Offices; ability to perform in a crisis environment.

DESIRABLE: Knowledge of local languages; prior experience in peacekeeping, international operations, or another international organization.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION EQUITY ACT OF 1999

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing H.R. 1764, the "Veteran's Compensation Equity Act of 1999". This legislation will provide more equitable treatment to approximately 100,000 older veterans who receive service-connected disability compensation and who are also eligible to receive retirement pay based upon their military service.

Under current law, the amount of military retirement pay received by a military retiree is reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the amount of service-connected disability compensation the military retiree receives. This reduction in military retirement pay when the military retiree is in receipt of service-connected disability compensation is intended to prevent dual compensation. The notion of dual compensation is erroneous. Service-connected disability benefits are paid to compensate a veteran for an injury or illness incurred or aggravated during military service. Retirement benefits are paid to provide an income to military retirees who have spent at least 20 years of their lives working for and serving our country as members of the Armed Forces. These two programs are completely different and payments made by these programs should not be considered duplicative.

This treatment of military retirees is simply inequitable. A veteran receiving service-connected disability compensation could become eligible for civil service retirement pay based on his or her subsequent work as a civilian employee of the federal government. This individual, unlike the military retiree, can receive the full amount of both of the retirement ben-

efit which has been earned and the service-connected disability compensation for which he or she may be eligible.

The "Veteran's Compensation Equity Act of 1999" will reduce and then eliminate the reduction in military retirement benefits for veterans who are entitled to both military retirement pay and service-connected compensation benefits. This bill will limit the reduction in military retirement pay to 50 percent when the military retiree attains age 65. The reduction in military retirement pay would be completely eliminated when the retiree reaches age 70.

Retired military personnel who were fortunate enough to have emerged from military service unscathed receive military retirement pay, but do not qualify for service-connected disability benefits. In many cases, these retirees are able to earn additional income through non-military employment and thereby accrue Social Security or other retirement income benefits. These retirement benefits are not reduced by receipt of service-connected disability benefits.

Military retirees who were not so fortunate, are required to forfeit all or a portion of their military retirement pay in order to receive service-connected compensation benefits due to illnesses or injuries that were incurred or aggravated during their military careers. These veterans, as a result of their service-connected medical conditions, face diminished employment possibilities and, therefore, a diminished ability to earn additional income through non-military employment. They therefore lose the opportunity to accrue Social Security or other retirement income benefits.

In general, Social Security disability benefits received by retirees are offset by monies received under state Worker's Compensation laws. However, the Social Security statute provides that this offset ends when the worker attains 65 years of age. Furthermore, while recipients of Social Security benefits who earn income have their Social Security benefits reduced as a result of their earnings, this offset is reduced at age 65 and eliminated entirely at age 70.

While all veterans who are subject to the concurrent receipt offset are unfairly penalized, my bill would begin to rectify the injustice which falls most heavily on our older veterans. This bill will promote fairness and equity between military retirees and Social Security retirees by reducing the amount of this offset by 50 percent at age 65 and eliminating it entirely at age 70.

Military retirees who have given so much to the service of our country and suffered disease or disabilities as a direct result of their military service do not deserve to be impoverished in their older years by the concurrent receipt penalty.

I commend Mr. BILIRAKIS, an original cosponsor of this bill, for his efforts to address the problems caused to our military retirees by the statutory prohibition on concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. I urge my other colleagues to support this bipartisan effort to promote fairness for our Nation's older military retirees.

SELMA GOMEZ—WHITE HOUSE
FELLOW FOR 1998-1999

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate my constituent, Ms. Selma Gomez of Miami, Florida for her service as a prestigious White House Fellow for 1998-1999.

The daughter of Cuban refugees in Miami, Ms. Gomez has an outstanding record of academic achievement, business leadership and community service which made her well qualified for this high honor. She earned four degrees from Harvard University including a PhD in decision sciences and has taught at the University of Miami's engineering department. In addition to extensive community service, Dr. Gomez also excelled in the business world as the president and founder of Applied Consulting Services Corp. after serving as a senior manager at KPMP Peat Marwick LLP.

Assigned to the State Department, Dr. Gomez specialized in the critical Y2K issue. She has traveled around the world on fact-finding missions regarding the Y2K problem, as well as representing our nation at the G-8 Year 2000 Working Group and the Year 2000 meeting of international Y2K coordinators at the United Nations. A leading highlight of her fellowship was briefing Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and other top State Department officials on Year 2000 Challenges and Responses.

I am honored to recognize Selma Gomez for her outstanding work as a White House Fellow. Her service in this position makes all of us in South Florida very proud.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO STOP FINANCIAL HEMORRHAGE OF NATION'S PREMIER TEACH- ING HOSPITALS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to stop the cuts in Medicare's indirect medical education (IME) program. Identical legislation is being introduced in the Senate today by Senator MOYNIHAN of the Senate Finance Committee.

IME payments are extra payments made to teaching hospitals for the fact that they are training the next generation of doctors, and that the cost of training a young doctor—like any apprenticeship or new person on the job—is more expensive than just dealing with experienced, older workers. The young person requires mentoring, orders more tests, and makes mistakes unless closely supervised. It is natural that a group of young residents in a hospital will reduce a hospital's efficiency and increase its costs. Medicare should help pay for these extra "indirect" costs, if we want—as we surely do—future generations of competent, highly skilled doctors.

The Balanced Budget Act took the position that the extra adjustment we pay a hospital per resident should be reduced from 7.7 percent in FY 1997 to 5.5 percent in FY 2001.

This provision was estimated to save about \$6 billion over 5 years and \$16 billion over ten—in addition to about another \$50 billion in hospital cuts in other portions of the BBA.

Mr. Speaker, these cuts are too much. The nation's teaching hospitals, which do so much to serve the uninsured and poor, and which are the cradle of new clinical research and technical innovation, are hemorrhaging red ink.

Our bill stops further scheduled cuts in the IME, freezing the adjustment factor at 6.5 percent rather than letting it fall to 5.5 percent, and saving teaching hospitals about \$8 billion over ten years that would otherwise be taken from them.

I hope this legislation will receive early consideration. The situation is, as a hospital ER would say, STAT.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note that we should pass other legislation to help our Nation's hospitals: HR 1103 is a bill I introduced to 'carve out' disproportionate share hospital payments from the amount we pay HMOs and give that money directly to the DSH hospitals when an HMO uses those hospitals. Today, Medicare HMOs are paid as if they use DSH hospitals, but they frequently avoid the hospitals that serve the uninsured because they are more expensive hospitals—thus pocketing the DSH payment and leaving the DSH hospital with empty beds.

We must also correct a technical error in the BBA which capped the amount we pay psychiatric and rehabilitation hospitals (so-called TEFRA hospitals) but failed to adjust the cap for higher wage costs in urban areas. The result is severe hardship for such hospitals in urban areas. At the first opportunity, I will try to amend the BBA to correct this drafting error.

COMMENDING WHITE HOUSE FELLOW, DR. STEPHEN ENGLAND OF ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Stephen England of St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. England has served this year as a distinguished White House Fellow.

The White House Fellowship Program was created in 1965 to employ the talents of outstanding individuals in various areas of public service. White House Fellows explore issues of both global and nationwide significance while working closely with influential leaders in government. The nearly 500 alumni of the program have gone on to become leaders in all fields of endeavor, fulfilling the fellowship's mission to encourage active citizenship and service to the nation. This program is extremely competitive, choosing individuals who have demonstrated excellence in community service, leadership, academic and professional achievement. It is the nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development.

As a White House Fellow for the U.S. Department of Education, Dr. England assists in the Safe and Drug-Free School program. This program provides support to governors for a variety of drug and violence prevention activi-

ties focused primarily on school-age children. He also oversees the creation and implementation of Project SERV, a federal program designed to assist states and local education agencies in managing school crises attributable to violence. In addition, Dr. England assists in a new federal coordinated grants program that distributes community-wide grants for safer schools and communities.

Dr. England is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Gillette Children's Specialty Health Care and the Shriners' Hospital in St. Paul, where he focuses on children with special health care needs. He is also an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Minnesota. Dr. England lectured nationally and internationally on pediatric and adolescent health topics. He serves on numerous state commissions addressing the health issues of children with disabilities. As part of a medical mission in Ecuador, Dr. England has made a lasting impact on many lives by operating on children with cerebral palsy. He has also demonstrated his commitment to public service by founding the Children's Health Enrichment Program in St. Paul, which teaches African-American teenagers about health topics and provides mentoring and academic guidance. Dr. England received a BA in biology from the University of Minnesota, an MD from Cornell University Medical College and an MA in public health from Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in commending Dr. Stephen England for his distinguished leadership in community endeavors and for his service as a White House Fellow. His accomplishments and civic contributions have earned him recognition as an outstanding member of the St. Paul community.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS TEXAS MOHAIR MONTH

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, May has been recognized by the Governor of Texas as Mohair Industry Month. More than one million Angora goats are raised in Texas and the lion's share of them are raised in the 23d Congressional District, that I represent.

The mohair industry in Texas traces its roots back to 1849 with the arrival of a small flock of seven does and two bucks. The goats were originally from Turkey, near the city of Nakara. Angora goats were highly regarded and jealously protected from exportation by Turkey until the 16th century when they were exported to Spain and France.

Today the United States is the second-leading mohair producer in the world and more than 90 percent of that production is in Texas. In 1998 Texas produced more than 4.654 million pounds of mohair. This hair was shipped to more than 10 countries around the world and provided a \$12 million infusion into the state's economy.

Mohair is said to be the fabric of kings. The rich luster and soft texture of the fiber, in combination with the durability, make it a highly valued textile. Because of its durability Mohair is used to decorate many public places such as symphony halls and theaters.

I encourage all of my colleagues to seek out and wear clothes made of mohair. Biblical wise men once wore robes made of this special fabric. It has endured over time and fashion trends. I am proud to honor Texas mohair producers.

HONORING THE AMERICAN FUJIAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry, an organization that has become an integral part of our diverse community in New York. It is an organization that understands the importance of diversity, and seeks to tap into the vast spectrum of talent and initiative of the Chinese-American community. The association has always worked to strengthen families and businesses throughout our city.

Started in 1992, the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry has been dedicated to helping Chinese-American business owners who immigrated to this country. The Association's 1,000 members truly epitomize the American Dream. They came to America from poverty. Once in the land of opportunity, they seized their chance and worked to make their dreams a reality. Through hard work, discipline, and sacrifice, they have become successful and productive American citizens.

Their efforts have helped build strong families and strong communities. The association takes a dynamic approach to their mission. Though they focus on business and economic development, they do a great deal of work in other key areas. The American Fujian Association understands that economic development must be accompanied by many important attributes.

For this reason, the American Fujian Association is active in the community in humanitarian efforts, immigration support, job training, and health services for families. By ensuring that these services are available, the association gives back to their communities and America.

I would urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the American Fujian Association for Commerce and Industry for their contribution and the efforts they make on behalf of Chinese-Americans and all Americans in the New York community.

RECOGNIZING THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES ON OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce House Resolution 168, recognizing the Foreign Service of the United States on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

I am joined by Representative SAM GEJDENSON, the Ranking Democrat on the Committee on International Relations and Representative CHRIS SMITH, Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights.

Mr. Speaker, only when unrest or tragedy strike abroad do some Americans become aware of the work of the thousands of men and women who serve in the Foreign Service of the United States. The members of the Foreign Service take responsibility for helping Americans in danger. As we saw this past summer in Kenya and Tanzania, Foreign Service members and their families sometimes also become the victims of violence, along with other Americans stationed abroad and their families. We need to do more, and we will do more, to protect all the Americans we ask to work for us overseas.

Indeed, more American Ambassadors than American Generals have been killed abroad since the end of the Second World War, and many in the rank-and-file of the Foreign Service—and their families—have, tragically, fallen victim to terror or to the more mundane hazards of life abroad in the service of their country.

But every day, these dedicated individuals stand ready to promote the interests of the United States. They do this by carrying out tasks such as protecting the property of an American who dies overseas, reporting on political developments, screening potential entrants to the United States, promoting the sale of American goods, or securing American personnel and facilities overseas. They and their families often live in dangerous circumstances and are separated from their extended families and friends.

At home, the men and women of the foreign service perform essential functions in the Departments of State, Commerce, and Agriculture, in the United States Information Agency and in the Agency for International Development.

The modern Foreign Service was established by the Rogers Act of 1924. We are quickly approaching the 75th anniversary of its enactment, on May 24. It is fitting at this time to congratulate the men and women of the Foreign Service and commemorate the sacrifices they have made in the service of their Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the text of the Resolution to be printed in the RECORD at this point.

H. RES. 168

Whereas the modern Foreign Service of the United States was established 75 years ago on May 24, 1924, with the enactment of the Rogers Act, Public Law 135 of the 68th Congress;

Whereas today some 10,300 men and women serve in the Foreign Service at home and abroad;

Whereas the diplomatic, consular, communications, trade, development, administrative, security, and other functions the men and women of the Foreign Service of the United States perform are crucial to the United States national interest;

Whereas the men and women of the Foreign Service of the United States, as well as their families, are constantly exposed to danger, even in times of peace, and many have died in the service of their country; and

Whereas it is appropriate to recognize the dedication of the men and women of the Foreign Service of the United States and, in particular, to honor those who made the ulti-

mate sacrifice while protecting the interests of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the Foreign Service of the United States and its achievements and contributions of the past 75 years;

(2) honors those members of the Foreign Service of the United States who have given their lives in the line of duty; and

(3) commends the generations of men and women who have served or are presently serving in the Foreign Service for their vital service to the Nation.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. BRYAN SWILLEY, OF PORTAGEVILLE, MISSOURI, WWI VETERAN AND CENTENARIAN

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 15, 1999, the American Legion Post 595 in New Madrid, Missouri, will be honoring Mr. Bryan Swilley at their annual Armed Forces Day Ceremony. At the age of 102, Mr. Swilley is the sole World War I veteran in Missouri's Eighth Congressional District, and his name will be added to the World War I veterans wall being constructed in Poplar Bluff, MO.

Mr. Swilley was born on December 27, 1897, to Tib and Louise Swilley in Portageville, New Madrid County, MO. During the over 100 years of his life, Mr. Swilley lived within a five mile radius of his current home in Portageville. He attended the local schools where he competed on the Country Track team and learned to play the violin.

After graduating high school, Mr. Swilley spent a few months in St. Louis with a high school friend. Mr. Swilley then returned home to New Madrid County to pick cotton. He usually picked 400 pounds of cotton in a day—placing it in a nine foot sack on which he had written his name with pencil in Old English. Through this experience, Mr. Swilley became so skilled in identifying the grades of cottons that in 1927 he won a \$10 gold piece for his high rank in cotton classing contests held in New Madrid, Caruthersville, and Kennett. Mr. Swilley also worked as a night watchman for Swift and Co. Oil Mill and taught at two local schools where he was beloved and respected by his students. During World War I, Mr. Swilley served at the Student Army Training Corps military camp located on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis.

Perhaps Mr. Swilley's greatest achievement was his 76 year marriage to Lena Frizzell. Mr. Swilley and Ms. Frizzell were married on September 8, 1920, and the couple had six children, Mozart, Neva, Bryan "Bo," J.K., B.W., and Donald. The Swilleys observed their 75th wedding anniversary the year before Lena's passing on February 20, 1996.

Mr. Swilley is truly a wonderful example of an American dedicated to family, country, and the rural way of life. I want to thank Mr. Swilley for the contributions he selflessly made to our country during the Great War. May he be in our thoughts and in our prayers on this Armed Forces Day.

A DANGEROUS TIME FOR AMERICA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, this is a dangerous time for America. Our nation has absolutely no defense against ballistic missile attack and our enemies are well-aware of this vulnerability. North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya and other rogue nations are currently developing long-range ballistic missiles to deliver chemical, biological, and nuclear warheads to our shores.

Communist China already has this capability. Just last year, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) confirmed 13 of China's 18 long-range nuclear-tipped missiles were targeted at U.S. cities. In 1996, China threatened to launch those missiles on American targets, including Los Angeles, if our country intervened on behalf of Taiwan during China's threatening missile "tests" over that country. China's Lt. General Xiong Guang Kai remarked that Americans "care more about Los Angeles than they do Tai Pei." Communist China still has over 100 CSS-6 missiles pointed at Taiwan and the number is expected to grow to 600 in the coming years.

Revelations China has been actively stealing U.S. nuclear warhead secrets from Los Alamos is no comfort either. The information China acquired concerns advanced, miniaturized nuclear warheads which will allow China to place multiple warheads on new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). If China launches these missiles at the United States, Los Angeles could be but a fly-over mark on the way to Washington, Chicago, New York, and other "target-rich" cities.

China is aware the United States cannot defend against ballistic missile attack and actively exploits this weakness. Rather than investing resources in modern aircraft and warships, China is instead fully funding its missile programs. Over the next several years, China can be expected to field a new mobile intercontinental ballistic missile. China is also developing an impressive and advanced reconnaissance-strike complex utilizing satellite technology to provide precise targeting data to its highly accurate ballistic missiles.

While temporarily less aggressive, Russia remains a serious ballistic missile threat as well. Russia still maintains over 20,000 nuclear weapons and in 1993 issued a national security policy placing even greater reliance upon nuclear deterrence do to economic crisis and a sharp decline in conventional military capabilities. Not only do such economic and political difficulties enhance the threat of an intentional launch, but they heighten the prospects for an unintentional launch. The United States remains helpless and defenseless against any launch.

In response to the confirmed and escalating threats to our nation, both the House and Senate in March 1999 overwhelmingly passed legislation establishing U.S. policy to deploy a National Missile Defense. At the same time, the Clinton administration has taken every conceivable step to oppose such a defense, to the point of championing an Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty the U.S. signed in 1972 with a country that no longer exists—the Soviet Union. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has decided, as a matter of affirmative policy, not to

field a defense against long-range ballistic missiles.

Despite the stark differences between the Congress and the president in commitment and accomplishment relating to missile defense, however, President Clinton's National Security Council Advisor on April 12, 1999 was quoted in *Aviation Week & Space Technology* as remarking that lawmakers have been less productive than the president in advancing an effective missile defense. In the article, Robert G. Bell "assail[ed] [Congress'] focus on rhetoric, deadlines and parochial interests, while avoiding the hard work of helping guide the architecture of a National Missile Defense system."

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's National Security Council Advisor is dead wrong on the record of National Missile Defense. Therefore, I hereby submit for the RECORD, the full text of the letter I have today posted to Mr. Bell in response to his comments.

APRIL 30, 1999.

MR. ROBERT G. BELL,
National Security Council Advisor, The White House, Washington House, DC.

DEAR MR. BELL: *Aviation Week & Space Technology* (April 12, 1999, page 21) reported your admission the Clinton administration was late to recognize the threat posed by long-range ballistic missiles, and inaccurately downgraded in definition our previous ballistic missile defense program to a technology demonstration program. The article also indicated you graded lawmakers ever worse than the Clinton administration, "assailing their focus on rhetoric, deadlines and parochial interests, while avoiding the hard work of helping guide the architecture of a National Missile Defense system."

THREAT

Your admission the Clinton administration was late to recognize the threat of ballistic missiles is a positive development. Recent events have reinforced to Congress the knowledge that long-range ballistic missiles are indeed a clear and present threat to the national security of the United States. The high visibility of long-range ballistic missile threats, highlighted by North Korea's recent test of a missile capable of striking the United States, the warnings from Chairman Donald Rumsfeld and the Commission To Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States, and the transfer of critical ballistic missile and nuclear warhead technology to China, argue persuasively for the deployment of a comprehensive National Missile Defense (NMD) system.

In response to the growing threat from long-range ballistic missiles, both the House and Senate in March 1999 overwhelmingly passed legislation making it the policy of the United States to deploy a National Missile Defense. This legislation establishes definitive policy for deployment and sets the stage for follow-on legislation providing for a specific NMD architecture. Clearly, the Congress is actively working to ensure our country is protected from threat of ballistic missile attack.

Yet the Clinton administration, including Secretary of Defense William Cohen, has failed to acknowledge the United States has a need to deploy a National Missile Defense, even while recognizing the growing threat from long-range ballistic missiles. When the Clinton administration cannot even acknowledge the need to deploy a National Missile Defense, how can it credibly assail Congress for "avoiding the hard work of helping guide the architecture of a National Missile Defense System?"

The Clinton administration, hinging the very security of our nation on a single Na-

tional Missile Defense "readiness deployment program," refuses to acknowledge the existence of a threat warranting deployment and our technological capability to proceed with deployment. It appears the Clinton administration is waiting until nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles are aimed and inbound to the United States before it will concede the need for an effective missile defense system. The Clinton administration is negligent in its duty to protect the citizens of the United States.

RHETORIC

Defense Secretary William Cohen's January 20, 1999 comments regarding ballistic missile defense were highly suggestive of a new willingness of the Clinton administration to amend or abrogate the outdated and non-binding Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. Yet, the Clinton administration's position has been refuted in practice by the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization's position of using the ABM Treaty as a reason to block development of effective ballistic missile defenses, particularly space-based ballistic missile defenses.

Why does the Clinton administration, publicly willing on the one hand to amend or abrogate the ABM Treaty, find itself on the other hand unwilling to develop ballistic missile defenses which may exceed ABM Treaty limits?

It has been documented Russia constructed a national missile defense system which violated the ABM Treaty. Furthermore, in April 1991, the author of the ABM Treaty, Henry Kissinger, recognized a changed atmosphere following the end of the Cold War, writing: "Limitations on strategic defenses will have to be reconsidered in light of the Gulf War experience. No responsible leader can henceforth leave his civilian population vulnerable."

It would appear President Clinton is indeed irresponsible by intentionally leaving our civilian population vulnerable to ballistic missile attack.

ARCHITECTURE

In 1993, the Clinton administration inherited a sophisticated ballistic missile defense providing global coverage utilizing Space Based Interceptors known as Brilliant Pebbles (which would have been ready for near-term deployment in roughly 4-5 years), Space Based Lasers, Space Based Infrared Sensors (SBIRS), and theater ballistic missile defenses, including Navy Upper Tier (Navy Theater Wide). Shortly after taking office in 1993, the Clinton administration canceled our space-based ballistic missile defense programs, including Brilliant Pebbles, and cut the Space Based Laser program to a token, not even equal to a technology readiness demonstration. These cuts have yet to be reversed by the administration, despite an acknowledgement of the inherent advantages of space-based ballistic missile defenses.

You clearly recognize the inherent advantages of such a defense, as quoted in *Aviation Week & Space Technology* (December 4, 1995, page 110): "At the other end of the scale is the Defense Dominance Model. It is central to High Frontier and the original vision that president Ronald Reagan had in articulating the Strategic Defense Initiative. Under this approach, if both sides build very tall defensive walls, including maximum use of the technical advantages that accrue from deployments in space [emphasis added], you achieve stability through counterpoised defenses, with requirements for offensive arms quite minimal."

Today, however, rather than seeking the "maximum use of the technical advantages that accrue from deployments in space," the Clinton administration instead proposes a

National Missile Defense architecture devoid of space-based deployments. The National Missile Defense system proposed by this administration will be inherently less effective and decidedly more costly than a National Missile Defense utilizing space-based deployments.

There is no reason for, nor intention of, the Congress to agree with a proposal for a National Missile Defense architecture of inferior design, particularly when the administration is aware it is deliberately compromising the defense of the American people.

SUMMARY

The Clinton administration is mistakenly attacking Congress for "avoiding the hard work of helping guide the architecture of a National Missile Defense system" at the same time it fails to even acknowledge the need for our nation to deploy a National Missile Defense. Furthermore, the administration's only proposed system architecture is of a notably inferior design.

It is the responsibility of the Executive Branch and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States to present a coherent and effective National Missile Defense architecture. The Executive Branch is led by a single individual capable of providing guidance for a National Missile Defense designed by a single architect, rather than by 535 architects in Congress.

Rather than providing for the common defense, rather than being vigilant in protecting the American people, rather than preparing the United States to counter the growing global threat of long-range ballistic missiles, President Clinton is willfully and deliberately leaving the United States defenseless, helpless, and vulnerable to long-range ballistic missiles. I take vehement exception to your remarks as quoted in *Aviation Week & Space Technology*.

We must defend our freedom. The United States must deploy a National Missile Defense which includes "the maximum use of the technical advantages that accrue from deployments in space."

Very truly yours,

BOB SCHAFFER,
Member of Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. MATRICE ELLIS-KIRK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the accomplishments and work of Mrs. Matrice Ellis-Kirk of Dallas.

Mrs. Kirk is of course known as our city's first lady, wife of Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk. However, it is an understatement when I say that she is a respected individual in her own right. Dallasites hold her in high esteem and regard because while being the Mayor's closest and strongest political ally, she is an Executive Search Consultant for an international executive search firm in Dallas and the mother of two beautiful children.

I join many men and women in Dallas in being particularly impressed by her commitment to serving the greater Dallas area community. She is focused in strengthening our city as she is in strengthening opportunities in her field and for her family.

Amid her great accomplishments as an executive, mother and first lady, Mrs. Kirk's personality is as such that she would not like us

to focus on her contributions and service to Dallas. This attitude was instilled in her by her family growing up in Cleveland, Ohio and to this day, she continues to adhere to the qualities of humility, style and class. In this case, she is truly a good example of this city which is inherent of style and class.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to those qualities, she took the lessons of achievement and excellence with her to the University of Pennsylvania, double majoring in Economics and Finance. Keenly focused on success as a woman in our society, she moved to a city that is a blueprint of success in Dallas. Before coming to Dallas, she spent time in New York until she learned where the real "first-class" city was in America.

Mr. Speaker, since that move, she has been a vigorous advocate of many community and social causes. Not only has Mrs. Kirk made her mark in her career, she has given back to a city that has yielded her opportunities. She recently chaired the 15th Annual African-American Museum Gala, which was a successful event under her stewardship.

She is also Chair Elect of the Texas Business Hall of Fame, an organization that awards scholarships to MBA's. As a model to

young women in our area, she is a member of the Advisory Board of Girls, Inc. and recently completed service on the YWCA Board.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Kirk was recently the cover story of an area magazine that focused on her three-pronged approach to life: Family, service and career excellence. In the article, Mrs. Kirk mentioned that she is blessed and has a lot to give. It is clear through seeing her great children, community involvement and strong support of her husband and this city, that Mrs. Kirk has truly given back to us and blessed us with a great example for all women.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING
SLAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 165, and to recognize and

honor Sergeant Richard Asten, a fourteen year veteran of the Kansas City, Kansas, police department, who on June 11, 1998, was struck down in the line of duty.

On that fateful morning, just after 8 a.m., Sergeant Asten was filling in for a colleague who had taken sick when he was called to help stop a stolen vehicle. When Sergeant Asten placed a stop stick in the path of the vehicle, according to eyewitness accounts, the driver intentionally swerved to run him over. Sergeant Asten left behind his family: his wife, Margie Asten; and their three children, Lief Ray, Theresa Ray, and Scott Ray, who currently is serving our country in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, supporting this resolution affirms the invaluable service provided to our communities by police officers and their families. Sergeant Asten and his fellow peace officers form the thin blue line that stands between us and those would do us harm. Passage of H. Res. 165 is the least we can do to honor and recognize police officers and families who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may enjoy freedom, safety and security.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MAY 19

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 14

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

MAY 18

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works
Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed sulfur standard for gasoline as contained in the proposed Tier Two standards for automobiles.

SD-406

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on television violence and safe harbor legislation.

SR-253

10 a.m.

Finance

To resume oversight hearings on United States Customs, focusing on commercial operations.

SD-215

Foreign Relations

East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee

To resume hearings on the policies between the United States and China, focusing on the human rights component.

SD-562

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S.924, entitled the "Federal Royalty Certainty Act".

SD-366

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 614, to provide for regulatory reform in order to encourage investment, business, and economic development with respect to activities conducted on Indian lands; and S. 613, to encourage Indian economic development, to provide for the disclosure of Indian tribal sovereign immunity in contracts involving Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

SR-485

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To resume hearings to examine medical records privacy issues.

SD-628

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the status of Youth Conservation Corps and other job programs conducted by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SD-366

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on S. 97, to require the installation and use by schools and libraries of a technology for filtering or blocking material on the Internet on computers with Internet access to be eligible to receive or retain universal service assistance.

SR-253

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Employment, Safety and Training Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine mine safety and health issues.

SD-628

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To resume hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed sulfur standard for gasoline as contained in the proposed Tier Two standards for automobiles.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 746, to provide for analysis of major rules, to promote the public's right to know the costs and benefits of major rules, and to increase the accountability of quality of Government; S. 59, to provide Government-wide accounting of regulatory costs and benefits; S. 468, to improve the effectiveness and performance of Federal financial assistance programs, simplify Federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements, and improve the delivery of services to the public; the nomination of Eric T. Washington, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals; the nomination of Stephen H. Glickman, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Ap-

peals; the nomination of Hiram E. Puig-Lugo, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; and the nomination of John T. Spotila, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 348, to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee

To hold joint oversight hearings with the House Committee on Government Reform's Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, on the Administration's fiscal year 2000 budget request for climate change programs and compliance with various statutory provisions in fiscal year 1999 appropriations acts requiring detailed accounting of climate change spending and performance measures for each requested increase in funding.

SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee

To hold hearings on issues relating to commercial space.

SR-253

MAY 25

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings on state progress in retail electricity competition.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Finance

To resume oversight hearings on United States Customs, focusing on commercial operations.

SD-215

2:15 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 140, to establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System; S. 734, entitled the "National Discovery Trails Act of 1999"; S. 762, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on the inclusion of the Miami Circle in Biscayne National Park; S. 938, to eliminate restrictions on the acquisition of certain land contiguous to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; S. 939, to correct spelling errors in the statutory designations of Hawaiian National Parks; S. 946, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer administrative jurisdiction over land within the boundaries of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site to the Archivist of the United States for the construction of a visitor center; and S. 955, to allow the National Park Service to acquire

certain land for addition to the Wilderness Battlefied in Virginia, as previously authorized by law, by purchase or exchange as well as by donation.

SD-366

MAY 26

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on Native American Youth Activities and Initiatives.

SR-485

MAY 27

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 244, to authorize the construction of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System and to authorize assistance to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., a non-profit corporation, for the planning and construction of the water supply sys-

tem; S. 623, to amend Public Law 89-108 to increase authorization levels for State and Indian tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, to meet current and future water quantity and quality needs of the Red River Valley, to deauthorize certain project features and irrigation service areas, to enhance natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat; and S. 769, to provide a final settlement on certain debt owed by the city of Dickinson, North Dakota, for the construction of the bascule gates on the Dickinson Dam.

SD-366

JUNE 9

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To resume hearings on the implementation of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century.

SD-406

JUNE 17

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on mergers and consolidations in the communications industry.

SR-253

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Veterans Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building